

RI – WEEKLY NEWS

WEEK 19 | 3 – 9 May 2025

ECONOMY

BNM Keeps Overnight Policy Rate Steady

The Edge – 8 May 2025

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has maintained the overnight policy rate (OPR) at 3% as expected, while cautioning that the Country's economic growth faces rising downside risks due to a potential economic slowdown in key trading partners, weaker sentiment from global uncertainties and lower-than-expected commodity output.

US Open to Tariff Talks with Malaysia, Possible Tariff Reduction on the TableThe Edge – 5 May 2025

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that the US has agreed to continue early-stage talks with Malaysia, with the potential for tariff reductions. No agreement has been reached yet. He also stated that the Government is planning strategies to safeguard economic stability and national interests amid global uncertainties.

GOVERNMENT

Foreign Workers Now Allowed to Apply for Cross-Sector Transfers

The Edge - 8 May 2025

The Government now allows foreign workers to change employers across different sectors. Previously, the policy only allowed foreign workers to change employers within the same sector.

SPAN Lowers Developers' Contribution Rate for Sewerage ConnectionsThe Edge – 2 May 2025

The National Water Services Commission (SPAN) has reduced the sewerage connection contribution rate for developers, effective 1 March 2025. Instead of a flat 1% of the selling price, the new rate is now tiered based on home price brackets. SPAN has also simplified payment procedures for government projects and introduced new rates for specific building types.

PROPERTY

Property Managers Seek SST Exemption on Commercial Property Maintenance FeesThe Edge – 7 May 2025

The Malaysian Institute of Property and Facility Managers (MIPFM) has formally appealed to the Ministry of Finance and the Royal Malaysian Customs Department to exempt stratified commercial properties from the 6% sales and service tax (SST) on maintenance fees and sinking fund contributions. This follows over a year of SST implementation, with residential properties having been exempted from the tax since 1 April 2024.

Abandoned Housing: REHDA Institute Advocates Tiered Developer Licensing

The Edge – 5 May 2025

REHDA Institute is urging the government to introduce a Tiered Developer Classification System as part of the housing development licensing process, aimed at addressing the persistent issue of abandoned housing projects. This recommendation is one of the proposals highlighted in the Institute's newly launched research report, "Abandoned Housing—Challenges, Insights & Solutions."

INFRASTRUCTURE

Development of RM2 Billion Seremban Sentral Transit Project to Begin in 2025

The Edge – 8 May 2025

The RM2 billion Seremban Sentral transit-oriented development (TOD) project will be built near the Seremban Railway Station on 8.4 hectares of Railway Assets Corporation (RAC)-owned land. The project is expected to begin construction in 2025.

Pahang Ready to Implement Development Plan at Seven ECRL Stations

The Edge - 7 May 2025

The Pahang Government plans to launch a high-impact development initiative at seven East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) stations, focusing on improving infrastructure and public facilities within a 15km radius to enhance residents' well-being and stimulate the local economy.

ECRL Project at 82.45% Completion

The Edge – 6 May 2025

As of April 2025, the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project has reached 82.45% completion. A major milestone was the completion of 400km of track installation from Maran, Pahang to Kota Bharu, Kelantan, which was two and a half months ahead of schedule.

Government Approves for Two Links Connecting to Duke Expressway

The Edge – 5 May 2025

The Government has approved two new links under Phase 2A of the Duta-Ulu Kelang Expressway (DUKE). The Laluan Istana Kiara link will proceed first with the signing of the concession agreement following clearance from the Attorney General's Chambers. The Kampung Baru Link agreement is still being finalised, with a completion deadline set for 31 December 2026.

Direct KL-Bangkok Cargo Rail Link Planned to Boost ASEAN Trade

The Edge – 4 May 2025

The Malaysian Government has approved the proposal for a direct cargo rail service between Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. The service is expected to commence in 2025.

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