

**RI – WEEKLY NEWS** 

WEEK 30 | 19 - 25 July 2025

#### **ECONOMY**

### Malaysia's Headline Inflation Eases to Four-Year Low in June 2025

The Edge – 22 July 2025

Malaysia's headline inflation eased to 1.1% year-on-year in June 2025, the lowest in over four years, driven by a sharper drop in food-at-home prices. This category fell 0.4% year-on-year, led by declines in vegetables (-7.2%), eggs (-4.4%) and chicken (-0.6%). Transport inflation also moderated to 0.3%, following a 3.4% drop in diesel prices.

# Malaysia will Enforce Minimum Wage Without Exceptions Beginning 1 August 2025 The Edge − 22 July 2025

Malaysia will enforce a nationwide minimum wage of RM1,700 per month starting 1 August 2025. The policy applies to all employees, including foreign and apprentice contract workers, except for domestic helpers. Non-compliance is an offence under the National Wages Consultative Council Act 2011.

#### **GOVERNMENT**

### **New Housing Projects Need to Be Comprehensive, Complete With Schools**The Edge – 19 July 2025

All new housing projects must include essential facilities such as schools, preschools and nurseries to support community well-being. Projects that do not meet these requirements will not be approved. In land-scarce areas, the Government is considering vertical schools with full amenities, including sports fields and laboratories.

# Malaysia, Singapore to Strengthen Ties in Govtech, Housing and Public Sector Reforms ☐ The Edge − 20 July 2025

Malaysia and Singapore are exploring strategic cooperation in three key areas: govtech, public housing, and public sector reform, to enhance public service delivery. Malaysia aims to learn from Singapore's experience in implementing digital governance, the Housing and Development Board's affordable housing model and public service reforms.

## **Government Mulls 'Pay-As-You-Use' Model for Maintenance Fees in Affordable Housing**The Edge – 21 July 2025

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government is exploring a "pay-as-you-use" model for maintenance fees in future affordable housing developments, aiming to promote fairness and improve access. Under this proposed system, residents would pay based on actual usage of shared facilities. Access cards would track monthly usage, ensuring greater transparency and equitable cost-sharing.

#### Sustainable Data Centre Framework Set for October 2025 Launch

The Edge – 22 July 2025

A framework for sustainable data centres is expected to be introduced in October 2025, according to the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry. The framework, under the Ministry of Digital, will coordinate efforts with relevant agencies and state governments to guide data centre development. The Malaysian Investment Development Authority will act as the central agency for all new and expansion applications. This aims to streamline processes, prevent overlapping functions, and support the growth of a more sustainable and strategic national data centre ecosystem.

### Kota Madani Project Not Cosmetic but Strategic 🗖

The Edge – 23 July 2025

The Kota Madani project is a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing the well-being of civil servants, not a cosmetic or politically driven move. Set to benefit around 10,000 civil servants, the development will be built on 102 acres in Precinct 19, Putrajaya. More than just housing, Kota Madani is envisioned as a model of urban development that is pedestrian-friendly, inclusive, integrated, sustainable and humane. Aligned with the Malaysia Madani vision, the project will feature nearby public facilities such as schools, mosques, nurseries, gyms and community spaces to support a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

### Padu System Uses Integrated Data to Update 30.4 Million Profiles as of June 2025 ☐ The Edge − 23 July 2025

As of June 2025, the Central Database System (Padu) has integrated data from 204 agencies, updating profiles for 30.4 million citizens and permanent residents. According to the Ministry of Economy, Padu enables the government to better identify target groups for intervention programmes, including subsidies. The Government now proposes shifting from the B40, M40, and T20 income categories to using net disposable income (NDI) as the basis. NDI is calculated by subtracting the Basic Expenditure of Decent Living (PAKW) from disposable income, offering a more accurate measure of household needs.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### Proposal to Link Kota Bharu to Pasir Mas by ECRL Still Being Studied

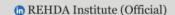
The Edge – 21 July 2025

The proposal to extend the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) from Kota Bharu to Rantau Panjang, Pasir Mas, is still under review by Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd and the Ministry of Transport. The Kelantan State Government supports the proposal, as it aligns with Malaysia and Thailand's plan to revive the Pasir Mas–Sungai Golok railway line under Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTMB). The State is proposing the extension to Rantau Panjang instead of the original Tumpat route. The overall ECRL project is expected to be completed by end-2026, with Kota Bharu–Gombak services starting in January 2027, and the Gombak–Port Klang segment completing a year later.

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