

**GOVERNMENT**

**Melaka Smart City Gets RM310 million Kickstart**

*The Star – 13 December 2025*

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission has allocated RM310 million to develop connectivity infrastructure under the Melaka Smart City initiative, says Communications Minister, Datuk Fahmi Fadzil. The funding aims to support Melaka's goal of becoming a digital heritage city, guided by the Smart Melaka 2035 blueprint for sustainable, liveable and resilient development.

**Sarawak to Reshape Industrial Park Strategy for Future Industries and Low-Carbon Economy**

*The Edge – 13 December 2025*

Sarawak is prepared to reshape its industrial park development strategy with a stronger emphasis on future industries, high technology and a low-carbon economy, said Sarawak Premier, Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg. He said the approach was shaped by lessons from the successful development of the Suzhou Industrial Park in China following a recent engagement with its administrative authority.

**Delays in Works Ministry Projects are Largely Caused by Contractors**

*The Star – 13 December 2025*

About 75% of delays in Works Ministry projects are attributed to contractors, according to Deputy Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Maslan. He said poor project management and weak financial planning are the main causes, adding that only around 5% of projects are considered 'sick', a situation the Ministry aims to avoid.

**Malaysia's Digital Self-Assessment Stamp Duty System to Begin on January 1, 2026**

*The Edge – 15 December 2025*

A major change by the Inland Revenue Board under the Self-Assessment Stamp Duty System will take effect on January 1, 2026, requiring taxpayers to assess and pay stamp duty online via MyTax. This marks the first phase of Malaysia's transition from an official assessment system, in which the tax authorities determine the duty payable, to a self-assessment system comprising three phases.

**The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) Implements 7 Projects in Kampung Baharu**

*The Edge – 15 December 2025*

DOSM is carrying out 7 projects to enhance physical and social infrastructure in Kampung Baharu under the *Kampung Angkat Madani* initiative. Chief Statistician, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the projects include upgrades to the community hall, cemetery, mosque, business premises, *Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Baharu* and a pre-school.

## **Pahang Minister Says 98% of Settler Land Ownership Issues Resolved**

*The Edge – 17 December 2025*

The Pahang Government has resolved 98% of settler land ownership issues through continuous efforts by various parties to address the long-standing matter. Minister, Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail said the achievement demonstrates the State Government's commitment to protecting the rights of nearly 43,000 settlers and resolving cases in accordance with regulations.

### **PROPERTY**

## **REHDA Malaysia Expecting Stable Growth Trajectory for Property Sector in 2026**

*The Star – 17 December 2025*

The property market showed moderate growth in 2025, demonstrating resilience amid global economic uncertainties. Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA) Malaysia expects stable, sustainable growth for the property sector in 2026, with a landscape that supports genuine demand while reducing speculative activity.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

## **New Link Reduces Travel Time**

*The Star – 13 December 2025*

The RM350 million Gurney Bridge has cut travel time between the Andaman Island township and Gurney Drive from 15 minutes to 5 minutes. The 1.2km, eight-lane bridge with 4m-wide walkways on both sides connects the 212ha man-made island to Gurney Bay and is expected to enhance accessibility, boost economic activity and promote tourism.

## **Kelantan Rural Projects Worth RM1.87 billion Approved**

*The Star – 18 December 2025*

A total of 37 rural road and 17 rural bridge projects have been approved in Kelantan in 2025 under the Rural Road Programme, at a cost of RM1.87 billion. Deputy Rural and Regional Development Minister, Datuk Rubiah Wang said six projects have been completed, 32 are under construction and 16 are in the pre-implementation stage.

## **Labuan Ferry Terminal Jetty Upgrade Expected to be Completed by April 2028**

*The Star – 18 December 2025*

The upgrading project for the Labuan Vehicle and Passenger Ferry Terminal Jetty, a key link between the Federal Territory, Sabah and Brunei, is expected to be fully completed on April 6, 2028. Works Minister, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi said the project is being carried out under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

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