

ECONOMY

**Malaysia's Industrial Output Speeds Up at End of 2025**

*The Edge – 9 February 2026*

Malaysia's industrial output picked up at the end of 2025, driven by factory activity and electricity generation, which offset a decline in the mining sector, data released by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) on 5 January 2026. The industrial production index, which measures output from factories, power plants and mines, rose 4.8% in December 2025 compared with December 2024.

**Labour Demand Up 1.8% to 9.21 million Jobs in Q4 2025**

*The Star – 12 February 2026*

Malaysia's labour demand rose by 1.8% to 9.21 million jobs in the fourth quarter of 2025, marking the highest growth since the first quarter of 2024, according to DOSM. Chief statistician, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the increase was driven by comprehensive Government fiscal support and policy initiatives aimed at stimulating economic activity.

GOVERNMENT

**Planning Permission Required for Building Places of Worship**

*The Edge – 9 February 2026*

All parties intending to build places of worship must apply for Planning Permission from the Local Authorities, said Housing and Local Government Minister, Nga Kor Ming. He added that his Ministry followed an open policy on matters involving the construction of places of worship nationwide and was ready to meet the committees of the respective places of worship.

**Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) Sets Up Portal to Strengthen Transparency**

*The Edge – 9 February 2026*

DBKL has launched a One Stop Centre Portal to enhance transparency and accountability in the city's urban planning process. Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territory), Hannah Yeoh said the portal allows the public to access information on development applications in their areas and check whether a project has received the necessary approvals.

**Shift into Delivery Gear as Nation Enters 13<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (13MP) Implementation Phase**

*The Star – 9 February 2026*

Malaysia must move decisively from planning to delivery in 2026 as it enters the implementation phase of the 13MP, said Economy Minister, Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir. He added that 2026 would be critical, with Ministries, agencies and States expected to mobilise with discipline, speed and accountability to deliver measurable outcomes amid an increasingly uncertain global environment.

## [2,750 Projects Completed in New Villages Between 2023 and 2025](#)

*The Star – 8 February 2026*

A total of 2,750 projects in Chinese and Indian new villages nationwide were completed between 2023 and 2025, said Housing and Local Government Minister, Nga Kor Ming. He added that these projects were carried out in 613 new villages under the Ministry's Chinese and Indian New Villages Division, with a total allocation of RM325.3 million.

### CONSTRUCTION

## [Public Works Department Tender Vetting Tightened to Ensure Only Capable Contractors](#)

*The Star – 9 February 2026*

Tender evaluations for contractor appointments by the Public Works Department are conducted thoroughly, considering applicants past performance, technical capability and financial standing, said the Works Minister, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi. He added that applicants' project histories are also reviewed, including any contracts that were previously terminated.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

## [Government Disbursed Over RM9 billion to Date for Pan Borneo Sabah Phase 1A](#)

*The Edge – 9 February 2026*

The Government has allocated RM9.2 billion for Phase 1A of the Pan Borneo Highway in Sabah, covering 16 work packages and fully funded through the development budget. Phase 1A, which spans 318km, has reached 86.9% physical progress, with four packages already completed and benefiting road users, said Works Minister, Alexander Nanta Linggi when wrapping up the debate on the motion of thanks for the Royal Address in Dewan Rakyat on 9 February 2026.

## [Monthly Traffic Plans in Place for Penang Light Rail Transit \(LRT\) Mutiara Line](#)

*The Star – 10 February 2026*

Traffic management plans (TMPs) for the LRT Mutiara Line project are submitted and reviewed monthly to reflect the changing nature of construction works, said Penang Infrastructure, Transport and Digital Committee chairman, Zairil Khir Johari. He said the project owner, Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, submits its TMP to the Penang Island City Council every month and that it is scrutinised by all relevant technical departments before approval.

## [East Coast Rail Link \(ECRL\) Achieves 91.7% Progress and Enters Operational Preparation Phase](#)

*The Star – 11 February 2026*

The ECRL project reached 91.7% construction progress as of January 2026, with focus now shifting to operational preparations, said Transport Minister, Anthony Loke. He added that the arrival of Malaysia's first electric multiple unit trains and electric locomotives marks a significant milestone for the RM50.2 billion national infrastructure project.

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