

ECONOMY

[Total Trade Topped RM3 Trillion in 2025](#)

The Edge – 19 February 2026

Malaysia recorded a historic trade performance in 2025, with total merchandise trade exceeding RM3 trillion for the first time. The services sector also posted its first trade surplus in 13 years, driven by strong travel and manufacturing services, signalling progress toward a higher-value, services-driven economy.

[Malaysia's Headline Inflation Steady at 1.6% in January 2026](#)

The Edge – 19 February 2026

Malaysia's inflation remained stable in January 2026, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rising 1.6% year-on-year, according to Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The increase was mainly driven by higher costs for personal care items and education.

[Malaysia's Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index 2024 Reduced to 0.0025](#)

The Edge – 20 February 2026

Malaysia's Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) fell from 0.0037 in 2022 to 0.0025 in 2024, indicating continued improvement in overall well-being among households. The decline was driven mainly by improvements in health and living standards. MPI levels in urban areas remained very low at 0.0001 in both years, while the rural MPI declining from 0.0164 in 2022 to 0.0109 in 2024.

GOVERNMENT

[Over 350 Landowners Appeal Penang's Revised Land Tax](#)

The Star – 20 February 2026

Penang's State land administrators are reviewing over 350 appeals from landowners seeking reductions after the land tax revision in 2026, with assessments handled at the district level. The State has introduced enhanced appeal grounds and a 50% rebate to ease the impact of higher taxes, noting that land tax rates can only be formally revised once every 10 years under the National Land Code.

[SPNB to Build 6,545 Rumah Mesra Rakyat Units Nationwide in 2026](#)

The Edge – 19 February 2026

Syarikat Perumahan Negara Bhd (SPNB) plans to build 6,545 Rumah Mesra Rakyat units nationwide in 2026 to expand affordable homeownership for eligible low- and middle-income households. The rollout will be phased, with 1,623 units under Phase 1 completed or underway, 2,300 units in Phase 2 set to begin soon and the remainder to follow in later phases. The programme targets applicants who own land but need financial support to construct homes.

[Developers Must Follow Height Limit in Heritage Enclave](#)

The Star – 16 February 2026

Proposed redevelopment within George Town's UNESCO heritage enclave will be subject to a building height limit of 18 metres, equivalent to about five to six storeys including rooftop structures, Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said. Developers will need to work within these guidelines when planning projects in the area.

[City Hall Infrastructure Spending to be Monitored](#)

The Star – 16 February 2026

More than RM355 million allocated for road works, flood mitigation and slope management projects in Kuala Lumpur in 2026 will be overseen by a parliamentary monitoring committee chaired by Wangsa Maju MP Zahir Hassan.

[MM2H Attracts RM3.87 Billion in Cash, Property Investment in 2025](#)

The Star – 15 February 2026

The Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) programme generated RM3.87 billion for the economy as of end-2025, with 14,535 applications recorded since the revised policy was introduced in June 2024. China accounted for the largest share with 7,600 applicants, followed by Taiwan (2,419) and Hong Kong (604), with additional strong interest from Singapore, the United States and the United Kingdom.

[Kuala Lumpur Planning Gaps Risk Costly Payout](#)

The Star – 13 February 2026

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Hannah Yeoh warned that poor coordination between land alienation and development approvals in Kuala Lumpur could expose Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to legal and compensation claims, as land could be sold for uses that conflict with zoning under the city plan. She urged stricter alignment between land sales and gazetted zoning, while noting that plan amendments may be allowed for public needs with consultation and that development intensity can still be limited based on infrastructure capacity.

INFRASTRUCTURE

[Government Ramp Up Efforts to Expedite LRT3 Opening](#)

The Edge – 14 February 2026

The Ministry of Transport is accelerating efforts to commence operations of the Light Rail Transit Line 3 (LRT3) line linking Shah Alam and surrounding areas, aiming to ease Klang Valley traffic congestion and expand public transport options amid rising private vehicle usage, according to Transport Minister Anthony Loke.

RI - Weekly News is published by REHDA Institute

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