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RI – WEEKLY NEWS

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ECONOMY

Malaysia's Export Growth Accelerates in August 2026 on Electronics, Natural Gas

The Edge – 18 September 2026

Malaysia recorded a trade surplus of RM28.09 billion in August 2026, up by 77% year-on-year. Exports rose 45.5% to RM191.05 billion, driven mainly by resilient global demand for electrical and electronic (E&E) products, as well as higher exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petroleum products. Imports also expanded strongly, rising 41% to RM162.96 billion, supported by higher imports of capital and intermediate goods, although imports of consumption goods declined.

Malaysia's Inflation Speeds Up in August 2026, Underlying Price Growth Slows

The Edge – 18 September 2026

Malaysia's inflation edged up to 1.9% year-on-year in August 2026, slightly above July's 1.8%. The increase was mainly driven by higher prices in transport, housing and utilities and food. Food and beverages rose by 1.9%, while housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels increased by 2.1%. Transport inflation accelerated to 2.0%, from 1.4% in July. Core inflation eased to 1.7% from 1.8% in July, indicating relatively contained underlying price pressures.

GOVERNMENT

Over 40 Applications to Set Up, Expand Data Centres Received by Government in 2026

The Edge – 14 September 2026

The Data Centre Task Force (DCTF) has received more than 40 applications in 2026 to establish or expand data-centre operations in Malaysia, highlighting sustained investment interest in the sector. The Government is assessing proposals based not only on investment value but also on energy, water and connectivity requirements, as well as their potential contribution to Malaysia's broader economic and digital goals. Moving forward, the focus will increasingly be on the value generated from data-centre capacity, including AI adoption, local innovation, skilled talent and higher-value jobs.

Penang Adds 1,133 Homes to Rent-To-Own Scheme

The Edge – 15 September 2026

Penang has added 1,133 homes across five projects to its rent-to-own (RTO) programme, supported by RM49.26 million allocated for 2026. The units were acquired through the State's RTO trust fund and will be managed by the Penang Housing Board (LPNPP). The new units comprise 187 homes at Mak Mandin Indah, 144 at Vista Perdana, 107 at Pekatra Indah, 55 at Harmoni Vista, and 640 units at Pangsapuri Pinang Setia in Setia Fontaines, Bertam.

Nearly RM130 Million Allocated for 24 Development Projects in Melaka

The Star – 15 September 2026

A total of RM128.25 million has been allocated under the 13th Malaysia Plan, Rolling Plan 1 for 2026, for 24 major development projects in the State, most of which are expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The projects include RM29.6 million for 390 Rumah Mesra Rakyat units, RM10 million for the first phase of PR1MA Padang Temu and RM8.5 million for People's Residency Programme projects in Klebang, Bukit Katil and Paya Rumput.

Selangor Allocates Up To RM20 Million to Resolve Strata Title Ownership Issue

The Edge – 17 September 2026

The Selangor Government has allocated up to RM20 million for 2025-2026 to address outstanding strata title ownership issues, including approvals, land matters, tax payments and the updating of property owners' information. Separately, RM5.68 million has been allocated in 2026 through the Selangor Housing and Property Board for three strata community empowerment initiatives.

Over 48ha of Recreational Space to be Created, Upgraded Across KL

The Star – 17 September 2026

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) aims to create and upgrade 48.56ha of recreational spaces across Kuala Lumpur by end-2027, including ponds and neighbourhood parks in Bandar Tun Razak, Setapak and Sungai Kuyoh.

MBPJ Cuts Approval Period to 25 days for High-Impact Projects

The Star – 18 September 2026

Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) has reduced the approval period for high-impact investment projects from 30 days to 25 days under its Speed Selangor@MBPJ initiative, aimed at streamlining project submissions and facilitating investment. NXP Malaysia Sdn Bhd became the first company to receive approval under the initiative for the expansion of its smart manufacturing facility.

PROPERTY

REHDA Inks MoUs with MGTC, MCMA to Advance Sustainable Property Development

The Edge – 14 September 2026

The **Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (REHDA)** has signed separate memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with the Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC) and the Malaysia Carbon Market Association (MCMA) to advance sustainable property development and strengthen industry understanding of carbon markets. The MoU with MGTC provides a framework for collaboration on green technology, climate action and the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices in the built environment. The MoU with MCMA seeks to improve engagement, knowledge sharing and capacity building in carbon management and decarbonisation strategies within the property sector.

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