REHDA INSTITUTE
Training • Research • Education

RI – WEEKLY NEWS | **WEEK 42 | 10 – 16 October 2026**

ECONOMY

Malaysia Steps Up Efforts to Achieve US$30 Billion Trade Target with Thailand
The Edge – 15 October 2026

Malaysia is strengthening border infrastructure, cross-border financing and trade facilitation to achieve its US$30 billion bilateral trade target with Thailand by 2027. Bilateral trade reached RM85.08 billion in the first seven months of 2026, up from RM66.95 billion in the same period last year. Measures under Budget 2027 include improving cargo movement at *Bukit Kayu Hitam* and enhancing facilities at Perlis Inland Port to support cross-border trade and regional economic integration.

Malaysia's Economy Grows 5.3% in Q3 2026, Beats Expectations
The Edge – 16 October 2026

Malaysia's economy expanded 5.3% in Q3 2026, exceeding market expectations, although growth moderated from 6.0% in Q2 2026. The expansion was supported by the services, manufacturing and construction sectors, reflecting continued domestic economic activity.

GOVERNMENT

Budget 2027 Housing Measures Welcomed, but Affordability, Fairness Remain Concerns
Bernama – 10 October 2026

Budget 2027's housing measures, including financing guarantees and stamp duty exemptions for first-time homebuyers, were welcomed for improving access to homeownership. However, stakeholders raised concerns over housing affordability, buyer protection and the exclusion of subsale properties from the exemptions. They also stressed the importance of transparent implementation to ensure the benefits reach eligible buyers.

Budget 2027: KPKT Gets RM6.36 billion for Housing, Public Infrastructure
The Edge – 12 October 2026

Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) received RM6.355 billion under Budget 2027 to support affordable housing, public infrastructure and community facilities. Key measures include RM1 billion for housing programmes, RM20 billion in financing guarantees for first-time homebuyers and proposed stamp duty exemptions to improve homeownership affordability.

Putrajaya Draft Plan Targets 83,438 Homes, Population of 305,000 by 2050
The Edge – 13 October 2026

The Draft Putrajaya Structure Plan 2050 targets 83,438 homes and a population of 305,000 by 2050, focusing on smart-city development, carbon neutrality and AI-supported management. National planning policies also promote sustainable development, economic growth and climate resilience, alongside stronger safety assessments for new developments.

KPKT Studies Option-to-Purchase Mechanism

The Edge – 16 October 2026

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) is studying an OTP mechanism that would allow prospective homebuyers to pay up to 5% of the proposed purchase price, with a full refund plus accrued interest if the developer decides not to proceed with the project. According to KPKT Minister, Nga Kor Ming, the proposal aims to establish a more structured process before the signing of sale and purchase agreements (SPAs).

PROPERTY

Seven Kuala Lumpur (KL) Housing Projects Remain Abandoned, 12 Classified as Sick

The Edge – 14 October 2026

Seven private housing projects in KL remained abandoned as at 31 August 2026, while another 12 projects involving 6,102 homebuyers were classified as sick. Nationwide, 1,726 housing projects involving 199,643 homes had been revived, including completed developments and projects that returned to normal construction progress.

First Job, First Savings, First Home: Students Rethink the Pressure to Get Ahead

The Edge – 14 October 2026

The **REHDA Institute Youth Initiative (RIYI)** 2026 highlighted the challenges young people face in career development, financial management and homeownership. Industry mentors encouraged students to gain work experience, develop financial discipline and build savings early, while making property decisions based on their financial capabilities.

More Than 60% of REHDA Malaysia Members Hold Off on 2H 2026 Residential Launches

The Edge – 15 October 2026

Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (REHDA) Malaysia survey found that 63% of property developers had no plans to launch residential projects in the second half of 2026. The main reasons include market uncertainty, delays in development approvals and unsold completed homes. The findings highlight challenges affecting housing supply, buyer demand and developers' confidence in Malaysia's property market.

WORLD

Global Economy to Grow 3.1% in 2026 Before Recovering to 3.4% in 2027 – IMF

The Star – 13 October 2026

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects global economic growth to slow from 3.5% in 2025 to 3.1% in 2026 before recovering to 3.4% in 2027. Strong Artificial Intelligence (AI) investment is supporting growth, while geopolitical conflicts, rising energy prices and financial risks continue to weigh on the global economic outlook.