REHDA INSTITUTE
Training • Research • Education

RI – WEEKLY NEWS | **WEEK 43 | 17 – 23 October 2026**

ECONOMY

September Exports Grow Fastest Since April 2021

The Star – 20 October 2026

Malaysia's exports exceeded RM200 billion for the first time in September 2026, rising 54.5% year-on-year (y-o-y) to a record RM215.11 billion, the fastest growth since April 2021. The Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry, citing data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia, reported that total trade grew 53.7% y-o-y to RM396.5 billion, while imports increased 52.7% to RM181.39 billion.

Inflation in September 2026 Eases Slightly to 1.8%

The Star – 20 October 2026

Malaysia's inflation rate eased to 1.8% in September 2026, down slightly from 1.9% in August 2026, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia. Inflation for the third quarter of 2026 remained unchanged at 1.9%, matching the rate recorded in the preceding quarter.

GOVERNMENT

1,726 Troubled Housing Projects Rehabilitated, Involving Nearly 200,000 Units

The Edge – 19 October 2026

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government reported that 1,726 troubled private housing projects had been rehabilitated between 2023 and August 2026. Of these, 1,542 previously classified as sick projects had been completed, while 147 had returned to satisfactory progress status. The remaining 37 abandoned projects had also been rehabilitated through physical completion or other resolutions.

KPKT Allocates RM24,000 for Three Community-led Urban Pilot Projects

The Edge – 20 October 2026

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT), through its agency Urbanice Malaysia, will provide grants totalling RM24,000 to support three community-led pilot projects focused on improving urban liveability, accessibility and public amenities. The Malaysian Association for the Blind, the Malaysian Institute of Planners Youth Wing and Placemaking Malaysia have been selected as grant recipients.

KPKT Urges States to Speed Up Gazettement of Public Open Spaces

The Edge – 20 October 2026

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) has called on State Governments to expedite the gazettement of public open spaces to protect designated green areas for public use, particularly in densely populated areas. Housing and Local Government Minister, Nga Kor Ming said as at December 2025, only 8,278.44 hectares of the 23,297.15 hectares of identified public open spaces in Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territories had been gazetted.

Urban Renewal Bill to Factor in Developers' Projected Profits in Valuing Replacement Properties
The Edge – 21 October 2026

Under the proposed Urban Renewal Bill, the valuation of replacement properties for existing homeowners would take into account developers' projected profits from redevelopment projects. Housing and Local Government Minister, Nga Kor Ming said affected property owners would be entitled to terms no less favourable than their existing arrangements.

Urban Renewal Bill to Complement Existing Laws
The Star – 22 October 2026

Housing and Local Government Minister, Nga Kor Ming said the proposed Urban Renewal Bill would complement existing legislation in addressing abandoned and dilapidated strata buildings that pose risks to public health and safety. He added that the Bill aims to facilitate more comprehensive urban renewal and rehabilitation efforts while protecting property owners' rights and interests.

Perak Launches Kerian Industrial City (KIC)
The Edge – 22 October 2026

Perak has launched KIC, a 287-acre industrial development in Dennistown with an estimated Gross Development Value of RM700 million. The project is expected to create 12,000 jobs, supporting the State's efforts to attract investment and strengthen its industrial capacity.

Government Finalising Natural Gas Roadmap (NGR) to Strengthen Energy Security
The Star – 22 October 2026

The Government is finalising the NGR to steer the coordinated development of Malaysia's gas sector in alignment with national policies and the 13th Malaysia Plan, said Economy Minister, Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir. He emphasised the need to strengthen gas supply resilience amid global market uncertainties and growing energy demand from advanced manufacturing, data centres and digital industries.

INFRASTRUCTURE

First Phase of East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) to Open by 12 December 2026
The Star – 20 October 2026

The ECRL could begin operations on 12 December 2026 or earlier, subject to the successful completion of final testing, safety requirements and relevant approvals, said Malaysia Rail Link Sdn. Bhd. chief executive officer, Datuk Seri Darwis Abdul Razak. The railway will transport both cargo and passengers between Port Klang and Kota Bharu.