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RI – WEEKLY NEWS | **WEEK 47 | 14 – 20 November 2026**

ECONOMY

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Establishes Regulatory Framework for Open Finance

The Edge – 17 November 2026

BNM's open finance framework, which allows financial institutions to share customer data with consent, will take effect on 1 January 2028. The framework aims to provide more personalised financial services, allow customers to manage accounts across different banks through a single platform and simplify applications for financial products. While certain financial institutions will be required to participate, customers can choose whether to share their financial information.

Malaysia's Economy Charts 5.5% Growth in Q3 2026

The Star – 18 November 2026

Malaysia's economy expanded by 5.5% in the third quarter of 2026, exceeding the advance estimate of 5.3%, driven by strong technology-related exports and sustained growth in domestic demand, according to Bank Negara Malaysia's latest economic report. However, growth moderated from 6.0% in the second quarter, partly due to the base effect of higher cash transfers recorded in the third quarter of 2025.

Malaysia's Diversified Economy Reduces Reliance on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Sector

The Star – 18 November 2026

Bank Negara Malaysia Governor, Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said Malaysia's diverse economy reduces its reliance on any single sector, including AI. He made the remarks in response to concerns over the Country's growing dependence on AI-related investments, particularly in semiconductors, electrical and electronics products and data centres. He added that Malaysia's economy is supported by various sectors, including services, manufacturing, mining and agriculture.

Central Bank to Assess Economic, Inflation Data Before Deciding 2027 OPR Move

The Star – 18 November 2026

Bank Negara Malaysia Governor, Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said the Central Bank will continue to monitor economic and inflation data before deciding whether to increase the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) in 2027. He added that the Monetary Policy Committee will consider the latest data to ensure that interest rate decisions remain in line with the Country's economic growth and inflation outlook.

Real Estate Draws RM47.9 billion in Investment Approvals

The Edge – 18 November 2026

Malaysia recorded RM47.9 billion in approved real estate investments during the first nine months of 2026, making it the second-largest services subsector. According to the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, total approved investments across services, manufacturing and primary industries increased by 20.7% year-on-year to RM350.4 billion, involving 4,387 projects expected to generate 152,090 jobs upon full implementation.

Malaysia Draws RM9.2 billion in Indicative Investment Proposals from China
The Star – 19 November 2026

Malaysia has secured proposed investments worth RM9.2 billion from Chinese companies following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit to China for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting. More than seven companies participated in the meetings, including those involved in technology, biomedical, new energy materials and manufacturing sectors.

Malaysia's Inflation Edges Higher to 1.9% in October 2026
The Star – 19 November 2026

Malaysia's inflation rose slightly to 1.9% in October 2026, compared with 1.8% in September 2026, mainly driven by higher transport and energy costs. The increase was below economists' forecast of 2%, while the Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1% month-on-month. According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia, the transport group recorded a higher increase of 4.2%, compared with 2.5% in September 2026, mainly due to the operation of personal transport equipment.

GOVERNMENT

RM35 million Penang Pilot Links Senior Housing with Care
The Edge – 16 November 2026

A proposed RM35 million senior housing development in Kepala Batas, Penang, will provide 290 independent-living units as part of the wider Darul Hanan complex, which will include elderly care facilities and commercial premises. The pilot project involves Retirement Fund Inc (KWAP), the Penang Islamic Religious Council (MAINPP) and KWAP's property development arm, KWEST Sdn Bhd.

Government to Review Cargo Vehicle Tax, Logistics Subsidies to Support 'Road-To-Rail' Shift
The Edge – 19 November 2026

Deputy Finance Minister, Liew Chin Tong said the Government is reviewing possible tax changes on road cargo vehicles and subsidies for the logistics sector to encourage a shift from road to rail freight transport. He added that a comprehensive study is needed to identify the most effective measures, including whether tax incentives could encourage businesses to switch to rail transport.

INFRASTRUCTURE

ECRL Cargo Train Can Carry Equivalent of 79 Lorry Loads, Cut Accident Risks
The Edge – 19 November 2026

Deputy Transport Minister, Datuk Haji Hasbi Habibollah said an East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) cargo train can carry up to 3,150 tonnes of freight, equivalent to the capacity of 79 lorries, helping to reduce road congestion and accident risks. Each train can consist of up to 45 wagons. However, the Government will continue to rely on lorry transport for first- and last-mile deliveries, while promoting rail services for long-distance freight under an intermodal transport approach.

RI - Weekly News is published by REHDA Institute
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