



Good Morning Craig,

In this edition, we cover the latest developments in the investigation into former Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob's alleged corruption, as well as Malaysia's commitment to global peacekeeping with its invitation to the UN Peacekeeping Forum 2025. Additionally, we address the growing health concern of pneumonia and its rising impact on the elderly, alongside the shocking incident of animal cruelty at KK Super Mart in Ipoh, which has sparked widespread outrage.

Malaysia's revamped MM2H programme continues to attract substantial foreign investments, with RM455.8 million in fixed deposits already placed in local banks. We also take a closer look at the state of unemployment in Malaysia, which remains steady at 3.1%, as well as Nazir Razak's call for Malaysian companies to reinvigorate their expansion within ASEAN. Further, we explore how Malaysia is positioning itself in the global semiconductor race through a new RM1.1 billion partnership with British chip giant ARM Holdings to boost its chip design capabilities.

The CCUS Bill 2025 has sparked debate, with varying opinions on whether it will be a boon for the economy or a potential risk to the environment. Environmental groups are voicing concerns over the bill's oversight and its potential long-term consequences.

Thank you for reading MGCC's Pressespiegel!

We hope you enjoy our selection of stories this week.

National



Ismail Sabri's corruption probe: MACC records 36 statements, 13 accounts frozen

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is investigating Ismail Sabri Yaakob for corruption and money laundering, having questioned 36 people, including 32 witnesses and four former aides. The MACC has frozen 13 bank accounts containing RM9.33 million and is preparing to seize further documents. Ismail Sabri was scheduled to give a statement last Friday but missed the appointment due to health issues; his statement is now rescheduled for today. The investigation is ongoing under the MACC Act 2009 and the Anti-Money Laundering Act. MACC has seized RM170 million in various currencies and 16kg of gold. The doctor treating Ismail Sabri has not confirmed if he will be fit for the rescheduled meeting.

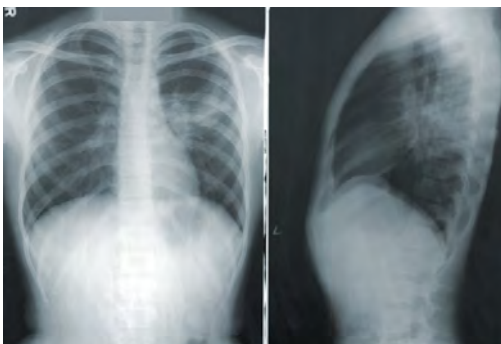
Source: [The Vibes](#)



Malaysia Invited to UN Peacekeeping Forum 2025

Malaysia has been invited to the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Forum 2025 in Berlin, reaffirming its commitment to UN peacekeeping missions. The invitation was handed over by German Ambassador to Malaysia, Dr. Peter Blomeyer, during a meeting with Defence Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin. The meeting also covered developments in bilateral relations and defence cooperation, including Germany and Türkiye joining the ADMM Experts' Working Group programme.

Source: [Malaysian Tribune](#)



Pneumonia now one of Malaysia's leading causes of death, experts warn of rising risks for elderly

Pneumococcal pneumonia, responsible for 18,181 deaths in Malaysia in 2024, is a serious and often overlooked disease, especially dangerous for older adults



KK Mart store manager fired for pouring hot water on stray dog

A manager at KK Super Mart in Ipoh was fired after a video went viral showing him pouring hot water on a stray dog outside the store. The incident sparked outrage

and those with underlying conditions. It shares symptoms with the flu but is more severe and harder to detect. Dr. Roslina Abdul Manap emphasised the importance of vaccination, particularly for seniors, and highlighted that co-administering flu and pneumococcal vaccines is safe and effective. The Malaysian government offers tax relief for vaccination expenses, encouraging proactive protection against the disease.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)

online, leading animal activist Siti Fauziah Jabbar to file a police report and take the injured dog to a veterinary clinic. KK Super Mart conducted an internal investigation, terminated the manager's employment, and offered to cover the dog's treatment costs. The police are also investigating the incident.

Source: [Free Malaysia Today](#)

Economy



Revamped MM2H draws RM455.8mil in FDs to local banks

Since the revamped Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) programme was launched in mid-2024, RM455.8 million in fixed deposits have been placed in local banks, with 782 approvals granted. This investment is expected to reach nearly RM1 billion annually. The funds support the economy through loans, development, and real estate purchases, particularly luxury homes for visa holders. The majority of MM2H pass holders are from China, followed by Australia and South Korea. The programme, which offers long-term visas for wealthy foreigners in exchange for financial and property investments, is seen as a success. Experts suggest that the government should consider allowing MM2H pass holders to work or start businesses in Malaysia to further boost the economy.

Source: [Free Malaysia Today](#)



Grow strongly in Asean once again or risk losing out, Nazir tells Malaysian corporates

Nazir Razak, chairman of the Asean Business Advisory Council, urged Malaysian companies to become more ambitious in expanding within Asean, as many have become risk-averse and stopped aggressively growing. He pointed out that while Malaysia once led the region in corporate expansion, countries like Indonesia are now taking bold steps, such as launching a massive sovereign wealth fund, which will boost their regional influence. Nazir emphasised that both companies and governments need to rethink their approach to regain growth momentum and foster ambition.

Source: [The Edge](#)



Malaysian unemployment rate steady at 3.1% in January

Malaysia's unemployment rate remained steady at 3.1% in January 2025, with 533,800 individuals unemployed, reflecting an improving labour market. The labour force grew by 0.3% to 17.22 million, driven by increases in employment across sectors like services, manufacturing, construction, and agriculture. Youth unemployment decreased slightly, with the rate for those aged 15-24 falling to 10.3%. Non-participation in the labour force declined slightly, primarily due to housework and schooling. The country's resilient economy, supported by strong domestic demand, government initiatives, and increased tourism, is expected to maintain stable growth in the labour market.

Source: [The Edge](#)

Industry



Tengku Zafrul: Malaysia's membership in CPTPP, RCEP unaffected by US tariff policies

Malaysia's participation in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) remains unaffected by the United States' tariff policies, as the US is not a member of these agreements, investment, trade, and industry minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz said. Despite uncertainties from US economic policies, Malaysia continues to focus on political stability, pro-business policies, and diversifying export markets. The government is also negotiating new trade agreements with countries like the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Canada, while upgrading existing agreements within ASEAN, such as the ASEAN-China and ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreements.

Source: [The Malaysian Reserve](#), [Free Malaysia Today](#)



Malaysia EV registrations more than doubled in February 2025, Proton e.MAS 7 most popular model

Electric vehicle (EV) adoption in Malaysia continues to rise, with a 110% year-on-year growth in February 2025. A total of 2,160 EVs were registered, surpassing petrol hybrids (2,112 units).



Malaysia signs RM1.1 billion deal with ARM to acquire semiconductor design technology

British chip giant Arm Holdings has signed a US\$250 million (RM1.11 billion) agreement with Malaysia to enhance its

EVs now make up 3.21% of the total industry volume, led by the Proton e.MAS 7 with 580 units. Other top models include the BYD Sealion 7 (387 units), Tesla Model 3 (377 units), and BYD M6 (120 units). Newcomers like the Denza D9 and BMW iX2 are also making their mark, with 34 and 32 units registered, respectively.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)

semiconductor capabilities, shifting from packaging and assembly to advanced production like chip design and wafer fabrication. The partnership aims to develop AI chips in Malaysia, with plans for local training and the establishment of Arm's first Southeast Asia office in Kuala Lumpur. This move is part of Malaysia's strategy to become a major player in the tech industry amid global tensions over semiconductor production.

Source: [Yahoo News](#)

ESG



CCUS Bill 2025: A necessary step or a risk to Malaysia's environment?

The CCUS Bill 2025 in Malaysia has sparked debate, with the government viewing it as an economic opportunity to attract carbon storage investments, while environmental groups and experts raise concerns about inadequate safeguards, regulatory gaps, and potential long-term environmental risks. Critics argue that the bill prioritises business interests over climate action, lacks liability provisions, and fails to establish necessary environmental protections or a broader climate policy framework. They urge stronger oversight and public involvement to avoid negative consequences.

Source: [The Malaysian Reserve](#)



Good to know

Nestled in Gunung Mulu National Park in Malaysia, the Sarawak Chamber holds the record as the world's largest cave chamber—debunking the common misconception that it's in France. Discovered in 1981 by British cavers Andy Eavis, Dave Checkley, and Tony White, the chamber is a colossal underground marvel, measuring approximately 700 metres (2,300 feet) in length, 400 metres (1,300 feet) in width, and at least 70 metres (230 feet) in height. To put it into perspective, it's large enough to accommodate 40 Boeing 747 airplanes or hold London's St. Paul's Cathedral five times over. This limestone karst formation was shaped over millions of years by water erosion, creating a massive, natural cathedral of rock. But the Sarawak Chamber isn't just a geological wonder—it also supports unique ecosystems, with rare species of bats and insects that thrive in the cave's dark, humid conditions. While it draws visitors with its stunning size and beauty, it's also a hotspot for scientific research. Biologists, geologists, and climatologists are fascinated by the chamber's distinct ecosystems and geological features, making it a key site for ongoing studies into our planet's natural history.

(Source and pic: Mad Facts Journey, Mulu Caves)

Nachrichtenhäppchen

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South China Morning Post: Malaysia's corruption carousel: here we go again, with Ismail Sabri third ex-PM implicated

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The Edge: Let's embrace patience, tolerance and compassion during Ramadan

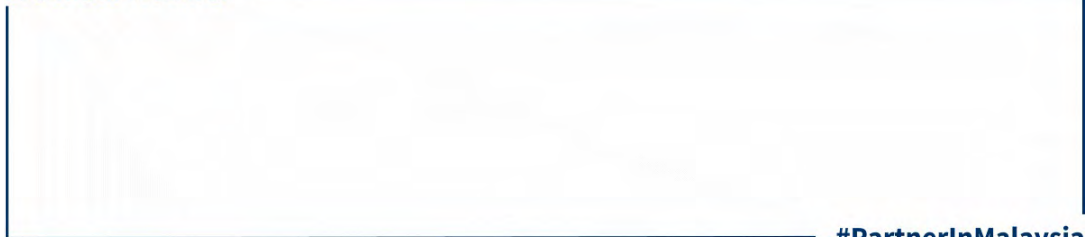
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