



Malaysian-German Chamber
of Commerce and Industry
Deutsch-Malaysische
Industrie- und Handelskammer



Good Morning Craig,

This week, we focus on the legal drama surrounding former Prime Minister Najib Razak, the alarming road safety statistics as Malaysia approaches the festive season, and major steps in economic growth, including Malaysia's efforts in AI and semiconductor regulations.

Additionally, we delve into important industry updates, including Malaysia Aviation Group's fleet modernisation and the ongoing growth in the healthcare sector where two Malaysian hospitals made it to the world's top 250 hospitals list.

As always, we highlight critical developments on the environmental front, such as Malaysia's new Carbon Capture legislation and the impact of fuel subsidy revisions on the T15 income group.

Thank you for reading MGCC's Pressespiegel! We hope you enjoy our selection of stories this week.

🌙 *We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri.* 🌙

National



Malaysia's top court rejects Najib's bid to block AGC's appeal on house arrest royal addendum order

Malaysia's Federal Court dismissed former Prime Minister Najib Razak's objection against the Attorney-General's (AGC) application to appeal his bid for house arrest. Najib, currently serving a reduced six-year prison sentence for corruption linked to the 1MDB scandal, sought judicial review of an order for him to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest. The Court of Appeal had previously ruled in Najib's favour, but the AGC has appealed this decision. The Federal Court will deliver its ruling on the AGC's appeal on 28 April.

Source: [Channel News Asia](#)



1 person dies every 2 hours in a road accident in Malaysia, official statistics show

In Malaysia, road accidents are a significant concern, with one fatality occurring every 1 hour and 56 minutes, and an accident happening approximately every 50 seconds, based on official statistics from March 2024 to March 2025. Accident numbers tend to surge during major festive periods, especially leading up to Hari Raya, with the highest number of accidents recorded in the days before the festival. Mondays are the most accident-prone day, while weekends are deadliest for road fatalities. In 2024, Malaysia had an average of 1,729 accidents and 14 deaths daily, with the road death rate at 0.8 per 100 accidents. Efforts such as the Op Selamat operation and a ban on goods vehicles during festive periods have reduced accidents. Malaysia ranks second in ASEAN for road fatalities, with a decline in the fatality rate over the past few decades.

Source: [The Straits Times](#)



PM Anwar: Malaysia must fast-track AI adoption with cross-ministerial collaboration



Anger mounts in Malaysia over Anwar's 'bailout' of Sapura Energy amid corruption probe

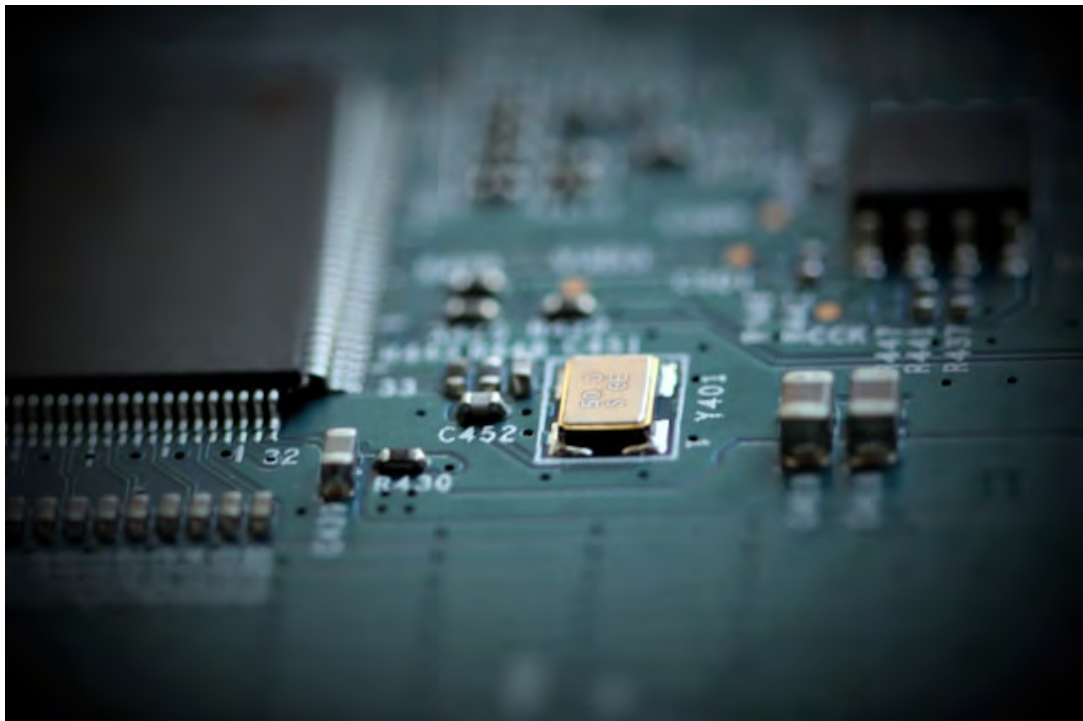
Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim emphasised the need for Malaysia to accelerate the exploration and application of artificial intelligence (AI) to drive sustainable economic growth. In a meeting on AI strategies and digital assets, he highlighted Malaysia's potential to lead in fields like Islamic digital assets and the halal industry, urging swift decision-making and implementation. Anwar also stressed the importance of addressing cybersecurity threats and fostering industry confidence. He advocated for collaboration among various ministries and institutions to create a comprehensive approach, ensuring Malaysia's global competitiveness.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)

Malaysia's anti-corruption body, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), has launched an investigation into Sapura Energy amid public backlash over a proposed RM1.1 billion (US\$230 million) bailout for the company's unpaid vendors. Critics argue that taxpayers' money should be used to support the public health sector instead. While Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim defends the bailout as necessary to settle Sapura's debts and prevent disruptions in the oil and gas sector, opposition figures, including Radzi Jidin and Hassan Karim, have criticised the move as a typical bailout, comparing it to previous government bailouts under former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. The investigation will focus on alleged money laundering and mismanagement related to Sapura Energy's operations in 2018.

Source: [South China Morning Post](#)

Economy



Malaysia to tighten semiconductor regulations under US pressure

Malaysia is tightening semiconductor regulations under pressure from the United States to prevent high-end Nvidia chips from reaching China, which are crucial for AI development. Trade Minister Zafrul Aziz confirmed that the US is urging Malaysia to

monitor shipments of Nvidia chips closely to ensure they are delivered to the correct data centres and not diverted elsewhere. The US is also investigating whether Chinese AI firm DeepSeek has been using banned US chips. Additionally, Malaysia is probing a Singapore fraud case involving US servers potentially containing restricted chips, with transactions worth US\$390 million.

Source: [Channel News Asia](#)



Malaysia's trade volume hits RM224bil in February, up 5.9%

Malaysia's trade performance in February 2025 grew by 5.9% to RM223.9 billion, driven by a 6.2% rise in exports to RM118.3 billion and a 5.5% increase in imports to RM105.6 billion. The trade surplus improved by 12.2% to RM12.6 billion. Domestic exports, accounting for 82% of total exports, rose by 5.9%, while re-exports grew by 7.3%. Notable export growth was seen in electrical and electronic products, palm oil, and machinery. Imports increased due to higher demand for capital goods, consumption goods, and intermediate goods, with significant rises in imports from China, the US, and Taiwan.

Source: [New Straits Times](#)



Malaysia's economy to grow 4.5-5.5% in 2025, inflation manageable, says Bank Negara

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) projects Malaysia's economy to grow 4.5% to 5.5% in 2025, driven by strong domestic demand despite external uncertainties. Inflation is expected to remain manageable, with headline inflation between 2% and 3.5%, and core inflation between 1.5% and 2.5%. BNM remains confident in the economy's resilience, supported by ongoing structural reforms. In 2024, Malaysia's economy grew by 5.1% with moderate inflation. BNM also highlighted growth in digital payments and efforts to combat financial scams, while reporting a net profit of RM13.16 billion for 2024.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)

Industry



MAG orders 30 Boeing 737 aircraft for fleet modernisation

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) has announced its acquisition of 30 Boeing 737 aircraft, including 18 Boeing 737-8 and 12 Boeing 737-10 models, with an option for 30 more. These aircraft will replace the aging Boeing 737-800 fleet and will feature improved fuel efficiency, range, and passenger comfort. The 737-10 will also include lie-flat Business Class seats. This move aligns with MAG's long-term growth strategy, enhancing operational efficiency and sustainability. MAG currently operates 113 aircraft, with ongoing orders for additional 737s. The acquisition reflects MAG's commitment to growth, economic impact, and strengthening Malaysia's position in the global aviation industry, with benefits for job creation, tourism, and the broader economy.

Source: [The Malaysian Reserve](#)



Sunway Medical, Gleneagles KL make world's best hospitals list

Two Malaysian private hospitals, Sunway Medical Centre and Gleneagles Hospital Kuala Lumpur, were ranked among the world's top 250 hospitals, with Sunway Medical at 193rd and Gleneagles KL at 204th. Both hospitals



Johor, Selangor and Penang remain hotspots for worker housing investments amid insufficient supply

Structured worker housing in Malaysia, particularly Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQs) and Purpose-Built Workers' Accommodation (PBWAs), is emerging

improved their rankings from the previous year, marking the first time Malaysian hospitals made the list. In addition, Singapore had five hospitals featured: Singapore General Hospital (9th), National University Hospital (80th), Tan Tock Seng Hospital (101st), Mount Elizabeth Hospital-Orchard (111th), and Changi General Hospital (138th). Thailand's Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok ranked 100th. The rankings, compiled by Statista and Newsweek, are based on surveys of medical experts, patient experience, and hospital quality metrics. The top spot went to Mayo Clinic-Rochester in the US, followed by Cleveland Clinic and Toronto General-University Health Network.

Source: [Free Malaysia Today](#)

as a stable, income-generating asset class, attracting institutional investors and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). Key regions like Johor, Selangor, and Penang are hotspots due to growing demand and regulatory requirements under the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990. These housing solutions offer stable rental yields, long-term tenancy structures, and potential for future growth, especially with stricter enforcement of housing regulations and increasing demand for compliant accommodations. Developers and investors are capitalising on public-private partnerships and long-term lease agreements to meet the demand for both foreign and local worker housing.

Source: [The Edge](#)

ESG



Malaysia passes Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage Bill 2025

The Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Bill was passed in Malaysia on 6 March, aiming to reduce CO2 emissions, combat climate change, and foster economic growth through CCUS development. However, its implementation will only begin once the minister sets an operational date, and it will apply only to Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Labuan. While the bill introduces the establishment of a Malaysia CCUS agency to oversee matters like CO2 capture, transportation, and storage, concerns have been raised by NGOs such as Sahabat Alam Malaysia about



T15 fuel subsidy criteria may push consumers toward vehicle downgrades, boost EV shift

MIDF Research predicts that the introduction of the top 15% (T15) income bracket fuel subsidy eligibility criteria, expected to be finalised by mid-2025, may encourage consumers to opt for lower-cost internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles or switch to electric vehicles (EVs) before tax exemptions for fully imported EVs expire at the end of the year. The revised excise duty set to take effect in January 2026 will raise prices for completely knocked down (CKD) cars by 10-30%. In February 2025, Malaysia's total industry volume (TIV) rose by 30.8% month-on-month but

the rushed implementation, lack of proper environmental assessments, and insufficient public consultation. The bill also allows for additional regulations and entities to support CCUS initiatives.

Source: [The Edge](#)

fell 1.7% year-on-year. The rise was driven by strong sales from Honda, Perodua, Toyota, and Proton, while Mazda and Nissan saw declines. MIDF expects further month-on-month growth in TIV in March, driven by promotional activities, and maintains a "Neutral" outlook for the sector, forecasting a 3% decline in TIV for the year.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)



Good to know

The National Mosque of Malaysia (Masjid Negara) is one of Southeast Asia's most beautiful mosques, completed in 1965 after three years of construction. Located on the site of a former church, it stands as a symbol of national unity and independence. The mosque features a modern and progressive design, with a striking main dome adorned with turquoise tiles and shaped like a partly-opened umbrella, representing Malaysia's 13 states and the 5 pillars of Islam. A tall 73-metre minaret dominates the skyline, complemented by 48 smaller green domes. Surrounded by tranquil gardens and stunning architecture, the mosque offers a serene space for reflection. During Hari Raya, especially on the first day of Aidilfitri, the mosque becomes a hub of activity as Muslims gather for the Eid prayers and listen to a short *khutbah* (religious sermon). While traditionally, the prayers are attended by men, women are also welcomed and encouraged to join. Visitors are welcome to tour the mosque outside of prayer times, provided they follow the Islamic dress code and remove their shoes.

(Pic and source: Wonderful Malaysia, Meet the Cities, Attractions in Malaysia, The Rakyat Post)

Nachrichtenhäppchen

Malay Mail: Are Malaysians shopping their way into debt? Data shows BNPL use, personal loan-taking on the rise

New Straits Times: How Malaysia can mitigate effects of Trumponomics

The Edge: Can CCUS save Malaysia's oil and gas industry?

South China Morning Post: In Malaysia, one chef's daily grind is preserving Melaka Peranakan food traditions

Free Malaysia Today: The KL Hindu temple relocation controversy explained

Malay Mail: Of pineapple tarts and second chances: Inmates' Raya cookies go viral to become this Ramadan's sweetest hit

Business Today: Capturing renewable energy certificate demand in ASEAN

SAYS: This indie bookstore in KL needs your help to save it from permanent closure

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