



## Good Morning Craig,

It has been an eventful week, with seismic news surrounding President Trump's tariff announcement, which has sent shockwaves through the global economy. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim cautioned that the imposed reciprocal tariffs are just the beginning of even greater challenges ahead. While Malaysia will not pursue retaliatory tariffs, the country, along with ASEAN partners, will send officials to Washington D.C. to discuss the impact of these global tariffs.

In more positive news, 10 Malaysian words, including "alamak," "nasi lemak," and "tapau," have been added to the Oxford English Dictionary. Additionally, UOB Malaysia has been named Malaysia's Best Bank by Global Finance, a recognition of its leadership in financial stability, technological innovation, and service excellence. Meanwhile, PM Anwar is set to launch the ASEAN ESG Guide to simplify ESG data accessibility for SMEs.

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

**National**



### **'The beginning of greater challenges to come', says Anwar in response to Trump's tariffs**

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim criticised the United States' "fundamentally flawed" calculation of the 24% tariff on Malaysian imports and refuted the US claim of a 47% tariff on US imports. On 2 April 2025, the US imposed reciprocal tariffs on imports from nearly all countries, including Malaysia. The MADANI government condemned this as a rejection of global trade principles and a threat to Malaysia's economy. It pledged to work diplomatically with the US to protect market access, investment, and economic security, while assuring the economy remains resilient. Efforts are underway to mitigate the impact, including regional cooperation and economic reforms, as Malaysia prepares to face potential challenges and safeguard its prosperity.

Source: [New Straits Times](#), Prime Minister's Office [www.pmo.gov.my](http://www.pmo.gov.my)



### **Alamak, nasi lemak, tapau, among 10 Malaysian words added into Oxford Dictionary**

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has recently updated its list to include 12 words from Malaysia and Singapore, describing them as "untranslatable" terms that are widely used in English-speaking communities to bridge linguistic gaps. Notable additions include the Malay word "alamak," expressing surprise or shock, and the Cantonese term "tapau," meaning takeaway food. Popular Malaysian food items like ketupat, nasi lemak, fish head curry, and kaya toast were also added. Other terms include "mat rempit," referring to young men involved in illegal motorcycle street racing, and the Malaysian English word "terror," which can mean both "terrible" and "excellent," often used with expressions like "wah" and "lah." These words, having entered common usage, now reflect Malaysia's unique cultural influence on the English language.

Source: [The Sun Daily](#)



### **Putra Heights pipeline fire: Selangor govt allocates RM7.3m in rental aid for victims**

The Selangor state government will provide RM7.356 million in financial aid



### **Govt to table bill to encourage life-saving interventions**

to support Putra Heights residents affected by the recent gas pipeline fire. Menteri Besar Amirudin Shari announced that the aid includes RM2,000 per month for six months to help families with rental costs while their homes are being repaired or rebuilt. This assistance is in addition to the support already allocated by Petronas Nasional Berhad and the federal government. On 1 April 2025, a significant gas pipeline fire occurred in Putra Heights, Subang Jaya, Selangor, causing extensive damage and displacement.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)

A bill to protect individuals who assist during emergencies from legal consequences is expected to be introduced in Parliament by early next year. Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad stated that the Pre-Hospital Care Bill, developed in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Department, aims to encourage the public with certified skills to intervene in life-saving situations. The bill is part of ongoing efforts to promote public involvement in emergencies. Additionally, Dzulkefly highlighted the importance of CPR and AED training, which the ministry is encouraging for broader community awareness, and announced the donation of 210 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to improve emergency response.

Source: [Free Malaysia Today](#)

## Economy



### **ASEAN to send officials to US to discuss tariffs, says Anwar**

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced that Malaysia, along with ASEAN partners, will send officials to Washington D.C. to discuss the impact of US President Donald Trump's global tariffs. In his speech at the ASEAN Investment Conference, Anwar emphasised the strain on the global trading system and called for ASEAN to strengthen regional economic integration. Malaysia, as ASEAN chair, will lead efforts to coordinate a regional



response to the tariffs, with a focus on ASEAN's reliance on itself amid growing global trade uncertainties. Discussions on the tariffs were held between ASEAN officials and the US Department of the Treasury on 7 April.

Source: [The Straits Times](#)



### **Malaysia's GDP at risk as US tariffs bite, Tengku Zafrul warns of cascading impact**

Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz, Malaysia's Minister of Investment, Trade, and Industry, stated that the US tariffs would impact Malaysia's GDP growth, particularly in the medium to long term, as Malaysia is a major trading partner and destination for US investments. He highlighted that the 24% tariff on Malaysian goods is relatively moderate compared to other countries, making Malaysian exports more competitive. However, he acknowledged potential negative effects, including reduced demand, which could lead to lower revenues, job losses in the export sector, and a decline in GDP. Despite these challenges, Zafrul said Malaysia's strong economic fundamentals, such as resilient household spending, domestic investments, and solid tourism revenues, which should help the country navigate the impact.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)



### **Bank Negara may cut OPR by 25bps if growth weakens**

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) may consider a 25 basis point cut in the overnight policy rate (OPR) if signs of economic weakness emerge, according to Hong Leong Investment Bank (HLIB). While BNM is expected to take a wait-and-see approach, the bank cited global economic challenges and low domestic inflation as factors allowing policy flexibility. HLIB also noted that Malaysia's exposure to the US' 24% tariff hike may be less severe compared to regional peers, with strong export front-loading providing some cushion. To mitigate trade impacts, Malaysia could diversify exports and increase imports from the US. Monitoring key economic indicators will be crucial for BNM's future decisions.

Source: [The Malaysian Reserve](#)

**Industry**



### **Malaysia's AI ambitions at risk due to US tariffs, says expert**

Malaysia's ambitions to lead in artificial intelligence (AI) could be jeopardised by new US tariffs, particularly those targeting Chinese goods, which have disrupted global supply chains and increased the cost of key tech components like servers and processors. This has impacted local projects, such as an RM1 billion data centre in Johor, which saw a 15% cost increase due to hardware tariffs. Experts suggest that Malaysia could adopt Indonesia's local component policy to reduce reliance on imports and mitigate tariff-related risks. While the government's AI initiatives, such as AI@Work 2.0, are a step in the right direction, experts urge Malaysia to use this challenge as an opportunity to strengthen its domestic manufacturing and negotiate more free trade agreements.

Source: [The Star](#)



### **3 Malaysian firms get listed in the Global 500 Family Businesses Index**

The 2025 EY and University of St. Gallen Global 500 Family Business Index reveals that the world's top 500 family businesses generate US\$8.8 trillion in revenue and employ 25.1 million people.



### **UOB Malaysia named Malaysia's Best Bank by Global Finance**

United Overseas Bank (UOB) Malaysia was named Malaysia's Best Bank at the 32nd annual World's Best Bank Awards 2025 by Global Finance magazine. The award recognises UOB Malaysia's leadership in financial stability, technological innovation, and service excellence. CEO Ng Wei Wei highlighted the bank's progress, including its

Southeast Asia has 17 family businesses on the list, including three from Malaysia: YTL Corp, Genting Group, and KL Kepong. The report highlights the growth of family enterprises through mergers and acquisitions, with many having long legacies. Malaysia's Family Office framework also plays a key role in supporting the growth of local family businesses and enhancing the investment landscape.

Source: [Business Today](#)

successful integration of Citi's consumer banking business, digital advancements with the UOB TMRW app, and leadership in wealth management and sustainable financing. UOB Malaysia also played a key role in regional economic initiatives, such as the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, and significantly expanded its sustainable financing portfolio.

Source: [The Star](#)



## ESG





## Anwar to launch ASEAN ESG Guide and address key investment challenges

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will deliver the keynote address and officially launch the ASEAN Simplified Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Disclosure Guide for SMEs at the ASEAN Investment Conference 2025. The guide aims to simplify ESG data accessibility for SMEs. Anwar will also chair a roundtable on aligning ASEAN's growth with global investment trends. Finance Minister II Amir Hamzah Azizan will participate in several events, including a ministerial dialogue and the launch of Fractional Shares Trading. Additionally, a Trilateral Meeting between China, Japan, and South Korea will focus on economic cooperation amidst global trade challenges.

Source: [The Vibes](#)



### Good to know

The restoration of Fort Cornwallis' moat in Penang is set to be completed by May this year, after nearly five years of work. Originally built in 1786 by the British East India Company, Fort Cornwallis is one of Penang's most iconic landmarks. The moat, which was once used to protect the fort from invasions, is being restored as part of the ongoing development efforts in the Tanjong parliamentary constituency. Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow emphasised that this project reflects the state's commitment to preserving Penang's rich heritage while also promoting modern infrastructure to enhance tourism and investment in George Town. The area has become a bustling hub for cultural, social, and economic activities, with its heritage buildings, renowned eateries, and vibrant atmosphere attracting visitors from around the world. However, with increasing tourism comes the challenge of traffic congestion and limited parking, prompting the Penang Island City Council (MBPP) to consider measures like restricting vehicle entry, implementing two-hour parking limits, and encouraging public transport. Fort Cornwallis, with its star-shaped design, is not just a historical site but also a place filled with

fascinating facts. It was named after Charles Cornwallis, the British Governor-General of India, and was once used as a prison. The fort also houses several original cannons, including the famous "Sultan Abdul Jalil" cannon, which dates back to the 18th century. As the restoration of the moat nears completion, Penang continues to balance the preservation of its heritage with the demands of urban growth, offering visitors a blend of history and modernity.

(Source and pic: The Vibes, On Penang)

## Nachrichtenhäppchen

---

**Malay Mail:** 'Even slang is part of English': Why and how Malaysian words like 'alamak' and 'terror' made it into Oxford Dictionary

**Channel News Asia:** Talk of two-term limit on Malaysia's PM tenures comes at an interesting time for Anwar

**The Straits Times:** Chingay nominated by Singapore and Malaysia for Unesco's intangible cultural heritage list

**Malay Mail:** Trade calm, not war: Why Malaysia's no-tariff move makes sense

**Free Malaysia Today:** Zafrul as BAM president: Filling big shoes or a risky gamble?

**The Malaysian Reserve:** Merdeka 118 featured in Marvel Studios' 'Thunderbolts'

**The Vibes:** Rafflesia conservation in Kelantan under threat from uncontrolled development

---

Premium Member



#PartnerInMalaysia





*Copyright © 2024 AHK Malaysia, All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this email because you are a member of MGCC  
or have subscribed to our MGCC e-newsletter.

Lot 20-01, Level 20, Menara Hap Seng 2 Plaza Hap Seng, No. 1 Jalan P. Ramlee 50250 Kuala Lumpur