



# Daily Newswatch

## Market Review

The FBM KLCI sank to a one-year low at 1,520.2 (-1.1%) as a broad-based selloff painted a grim picture of investor sentiment. Investors continue to evaluate the possible spillover effects of mounting concerns over a potential U.S. recession amid escalating trade tensions, revised lower growth projections for 2025 by US economists and weakening Chinese demand on global markets. Among index constituents, declines were led by 99SMART (-4.4%), followed by MRDIY (-3.7%) and CIMB (-3.5%). Sector-wise, Health Care retreated by approximately (-2.5%), Property slid (-2.4%), and Energy dipped (-1.8%). Overall, market breadth remained overwhelmingly bearish with 910 decliners against 200 advancers.

## Economics

- **Malaysia:** Miti committed to strengthening trade and investment facilitation in IMT-GT sub-region
- **Malaysia:** Unemployment rate steady at 3.1% in January — DOSM
- **Malaysia:** PM: Projects to proceed in all constituencies regardless of funding channel
- **Japan:** Downgrades 4Q GDP, US tariffs cloud outlook
- **US:** Tariff talks stuck at lower levels, stoking frustration

## Companies

- **SEGi:** Unveils virtual learning platform
- **Erdasan:** Suspends executive director amid probe into dubious transactions
- **Sime Darby Property:** First stage of Sime Darby Property's The Nine, Elmina Green landed homes fully taken up at preview
- **Capital A:** Logistics arm Teleport seeking private funds to support expansion ahead of IPO, says CEO
- **FGV:** Bursa rejects FGV's eighth public spread extension application, sets Sept 10 deadline for compliance

<u>Upcoming key economic data releases</u>	<u>Date</u>
US – Feb 2025 CPI	Mar 12
US – Feb 2025 PPI	Mar 13
US – Fed Interest Rate Decision & FOMC	Mar 20
Malaysia – Jan 2025 Inflation Rate	Mar 21

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,520.2	(1.1)	(7.4)
Dow Jones	41,911.7	(2.1)	(1.5)
Nasdaq CI	17,468.3	(4.0)	(9.5)
S&P 500	5,614.6	(2.7)	(4.5)
FTSE 100	8,582.9	(0.2)	5.0
Nikkei 225	36,793.1	(0.6)	(7.8)
Shanghai CI	3,379.8	0.4	0.8
HSI	23,782.1	(0.0)	18.6
STI	3,825.8	(1.9)	1.0

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,715.4	20.0
Value traded (RM m)	3,298.1	37.2
Gainers	200	
Losers	910	
Unchanged	384	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
NATGATE	1.150	0.9	75.8
MYEG	0.895	(1.1)	53.9
CIMB	7.260	(3.5)	52.4
SAPNRG	0.035	0.0	49.6
NEXG	0.270	3.8	41.1

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
CIMB	7.260	(3.5)	384.7
MAYBANK	10.560	(0.2)	200.9
TENAGA	13.400	(1.0)	128.0
PBBANK	4.520	(0.7)	105.7
GAMUDA	4.060	(1.2)	95.2

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.414	0.2
USD/JPY	147.700	(0.3)
EUR/USD	1.090	0.6
USD/CNY	7.235	0.3
US Dollar Index	103.534	(0.4)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	70.1	1.2
Gold (USD/troy oz)	2,914.3	0.9
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,737.0	(0.8)
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	81,836.2	3.2

## Economics

### Malaysia: Miti committed to strengthening trade and investment facilitation in IMT-GT sub-region

The government is committed to strengthening trade and investment facilitation in the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) sub-region as it assumes the ASEAN chairmanship in 2025, said the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti). As Malaysia's lead agency in the Working Group on Trade and Investment Facilitation (WGTFI), Miti will focus on enhancing IMT-GT competitiveness by emphasizing key areas, including facilitating trade and investment through the reduction of non-tariff barriers. In addition, the ministry aims to accelerate the economic integration in the sub-region by developing comprehensive trade, investment, and tourism databases. (*The Edge*)

### Malaysia: Unemployment rate steady at 3.1% in January — DOSM

The Malaysian unemployment rate remained steady in January, amid an improving labour market, according to a survey conducted by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). In the latest Labour Force Survey released on Tuesday, the unemployment rate stood at 3.1%, representing 533,800 individuals. Chief statistician Datuk Sri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the country's labour market was in an upward trend in January, reflecting an ongoing improvement in the nation's economic conditions, despite some challenges in trade and inflation. (*The Edge*)

### Malaysia: PM: Projects to proceed in all constituencies regardless of funding channel

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has assured the people that all development and public welfare projects will proceed in all areas, regardless of whether funding is channelled through the respective members of Parliament (MPs). This includes hardcore poverty eradication programmes, which are implemented comprehensively without regional bias, he said. "Whether or not the funds are channelled through the MPs, projects for the people will continue," he told reporters after attending the Ihya' Ramadan programme with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS) staff here on Tuesday. (*The Edge*)

### Japan: Downgrades 4Q GDP, US tariffs cloud outlook

Japan's economy expanded in the October-December quarter at a slower pace than initially reported, weighed by weaker consumption but still likely supporting the case for further interest rate hikes. At the same time, government officials and analysts expressed concern about risks from US President Donald Trump's tariff policies and soft consumption affected by higher prices. Gross domestic product (GDP) expanded an annualised 2.2% in the three months to December, the Cabinet Office's revised data showed on Tuesday, slower than the 2.8% growth in the initial estimate and economists' median forecast. (*Bloomberg*)

### US: Tariff talks stuck at lower levels, stoking frustration

Talks between the US and China on trade and other issues are stuck at lower levels, people familiar with the matter said, with both sides talking past each other and failing to agree on the best way to proceed. While representatives of the two countries have had contact, officials in Beijing say the US haven't outlined detailed steps they expect from China on fentanyl to have the tariffs lifted, according to the people, who asked not to be identified. The second wave of duties imposed last week took working-level officials on both sides by surprise. US President Donald Trump's team rejects the assertion that it hasn't given clear demands on fentanyl, pointing to messages the White House has sent to China through diplomats in Washington, including Ambassador Xie Feng, according to a person familiar with the matter. (*Reuters*)

## Companies

### **SEGi: Unveils virtual learning platform**

SEG International Bhd (SEGi) has launched a virtual learning platform that offers SEGi University students a 3D virtual version of the university campus, enabling real-time interaction with lecturers, peers and learning resources from anywhere in the world. SEGi UniVerse, created by SEGi's wholly owned subsidiary SEGi University Sdn Bhd, is developed with virtual reality and artificial intelligence technologies for the university's approved and accredited open and distance learning programmes as well as students in traditional programmes who choose to attend online classes for part of their course. With global expansion plans, the virtual learning platform aims to make high-quality, accredited education "truly borderless", said SEGi in a bourse filing on Tuesday. *(The Edge)*

### **Erdasan: Suspends executive director amid probe into dubious transactions**

Erdasan Group Bhd, formerly known as AT Systemization Bhd, has suspended its executive director, Mak Siew Wei, pending an investigation into possible questionable transactions that occurred in 2020 and 2021. Mak, who has been on the board since 2013, holds a significant 7.8% stake in Erdasan. As a result of his suspension, Mak has been relieved of all duties, powers and obligations as executive director of Erdasan and its subsidiaries. *(The Edge)*

### **Sime Darby Property: First stage of The Nine, Elmina Green landed homes fully taken up at preview**

The first stage of Sime Darby Property Bhd's The Nine, Elmina Green, comprising 93 units of freehold double-storey linked houses over ten acres, in the City of Elmina, Shah Alam, have been fully taken-up during a weekend preview held on March 8 and 9. The houses will come with built-ups ranging from 2,000 to 2,342 sq ft and land sizes from 20ft by 80ft. Each unit comprises four bedrooms and four bathrooms, and are priced starting from RM921,888. The Nine, Elmina Green (stage 1) has a gross development value of RM93.8m and is scheduled for completion in March 2026. *(The Edge)*

### **Capital A: Logistics arm Teleport seeking private funds to support expansion ahead of IPO, says CEO**

Teleport, the logistics arm of Capital A Bhd, said it is actively seeking funds from private investors to boost its finances for expansion before embarking on an initial public offering (IPO). "We will do one private fundraising before an IPO," said Teleport chief executive officer Pete Chareonwongsak at a media briefing on Tuesday. "If we do that, that means, you know, we are closer to our goal of a public company." Neither the amount for the fundraising nor the IPO timeline was disclosed. Chareonwongsak said that the company is focused on achieving the necessary scale and financial performance to support its successful listing. *(The Edge)*

### **FGV: Bursa rejects FGV's eighth public spread extension application, sets Sept 10 deadline for Compliance**

FGV Holdings Bhd said Bursa Securities has rejected the plantation group's application for a further six-month extension to comply with the public shareholding spread requirement. The rejection comes after FGV's previous six-month extension, granted on Sept 13, 2024, expired on March 2, 2025. The group has, prior to this rejection, sought and obtained seven extensions to the deadline to meet the public shareholding spread requirement. As of Feb 19, 2025, FGV's public shareholding spread stood at 13.1%, noted the group's bourse filing on Tuesday, far short of the minimum requirement of 25%. *(The Edge)*



## Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	1.01	0.16	15.64
REXIT	Technology	0.56	0.05	8.93
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	6.20	0.54	8.71
Hektar REITS	REIT	0.50	0.04	8.69
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.76	0.06	8.42
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.01	0.08	8.22
KIP REIT	REIT	0.87	0.07	7.70
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.64	0.05	7.50
Amway (M)	Consumer	6.33	0.47	7.42
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.02	0.07	7.35
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.69	0.05	7.30
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.36	0.39	7.26
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	3.80	0.27	7.21
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.23	0.08	6.67
Magnum	Consumer	1.23	0.08	6.67

Source: Bloomberg

User guide: Mercury Securities compiles a list of dividend-yielding stocks for conservative long-term passive investors looking for regular income whilst capping downside risk of their investment.

Methodology: The list above includes stocks that have a high dividend yield, estimated to be greater than 4% per annum. These stocks also have a history of paying dividends consistently, having paid dividends for the past 3 years.

## IPO Tracker

Company	Listing Sought	Issue Price (RM/Share)	No. Of Shares (m)		Closing Date	Listing Date
			Public Issue	Offer for Sale		
Saliran Group Bhd	Main Market	0.27	80.4	38.3	28 Feb	13 Mar
<a href="#">Lim Seong Hai Capital Bhd</a>	ACE Market	0.88	132.0	59.0	06 Mar	21 Mar
Wawasan Dengkil Holdings Bhd	ACE Market	0.25	108.0	54.0	11 Mar	25 Mar
Chemlite Innovation Bhd	ACE Market	0.25	120.0	60.0	12 Mar	26 Mar
Hi Mobility Bhd	Main Market	1.22	95.0	35.0	19 Mar	28 Mar

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