



03 JAN, 2025

Changes you can expect this year

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia

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Here are some key happenings in 2025:

RON95 subsidy rationalisation

The government will introduce a targeted subsidy reform for RON95 petrol in mid-2025, as announced in Budget 2025 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The tiered system aims to ensure 85 per cent of Malaysians continue receiving subsidies, while the top 15 per cent will pay market prices. Eligibility may be managed through fleet cards, IC-based verification, or e-wallets.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli called the initiative a “once-in-a-generation” reform to improve fiscal sustainability. In 2023 alone, Malaysia spent over RM50 billion on direct fuel subsidies.

Minimum wage increase to RM1,700

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced during Budget 2025 that Malaysia’s minimum wage will increase to RM1,700 starting February 1, 2025.

For companies with fewer than five employees, the new wage will take effect on August 1, 2025. This is an increase from the RM1,500 minimum wage introduced in May 2022.

The RM1,700 wage serves as a basic minimum, not a target salary for new hires.

Proton and Perodua EVs

Proton and Perodua are stepping into the electric vehicle market with their first full EVs. Proton’s Emas 7 is priced at RM120,000, while Perodua’s eMO-II, offering a 400km range, will cost under RM90,000. These models aim to make eco-friendly cars more affordable for Malaysians.

Proton has started accepting bookings for its EV, while Perodua has yet to announce further details.

National Service 3.0

The National Service Training Programme (PLKN) is making a comeback in January 2025 with its version 3.0. The revamped programme focuses on patriotism, resilience, and life skills.

A pilot project will begin on January 12 at two military camps: one in Kuala Lumpur and one in Pahang. By June 2026, it will expand nationwide to 13 camps and 20 public universities. Camps will be single-gender based, as recommended.

Social media licensing

New regulations for social media platforms will come into effect in January. Under these rules, platforms must register with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) to ensure compliance with child safety measures and tackle online crimes. Authorities have reassured the public that platforms will not face immediate shutdowns for failing to comply.

MyDigital ID: Streamlined access to government services

By early 2025, Malaysians will be able to access all government services through the MyDigital ID platform. This initiative underscores the nation’s commitment to digital transformation and aims to simplify interactions with public services.

Several new laws came into effect including the enforcement of the Content Application Service Provider (CASP) Licence which requires social media platforms to register for a licence with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

This requirement, under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (Act 588), aims to improve online safety, protect users, especially children and vulnerable groups, and strengthen regulation over Internet messaging service providers and social media.

Starting tomorrow, laundry shops and workplace buildings are listed as no-smoking areas following the enforcement of the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852) on Oct 1.

This brings the total number of areas gazetted as no-smoking areas to 28, including hospitals, clinics, public lifts or toilets, eateries, air-conditioned shops, airports, government premises, educational institutions, childcare areas, shop-

ping complexes, petrol stations, libraries, stadiums and more.

Individuals found guilty of smoking or using smoking products in the no-smoking areas will be fined a maximum of RM5,000.

Hawkers and licensed traders are required to make contributions to the Self-Employment Social Security Scheme (SKSPS) to provide financial support in the event of a work accident.

The mandatory measure is implemented through the Self-Employment Social Security (Contribution Rates for Hawkers or Traders) Regulations 2024 which was gazetted on August 30 through PU (A) 229 and came into effect on September 1.

In addition, the rate of the FLYiswa flight ticket purchase subsidy initiative has been increased from RM300 to RM400, which is expected to benefit approximately 60,000 students who use flights for domestic routes. Students can check starting tomorrow at <https://subsid-iudara.-mot.gov.my/>.

All childcare centres (taska) registered with the Department of Social Welfare (JKM) are required to display registration number plaques on their premises to give parents confidence in the status of their nursery’s licence.

The new criteria for exemption from financial statement audits for private companies will also come into effect, in line with the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) commitment to improve auditing quality and reduce the compliance burden faced by private companies.

Johor will return to implementing weekend holidays on Saturdays and Sundays following the decree of the Regent of Johor Tunku Mahkota Ismail on Oct 7, with the approval of the King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim and the views of the Johor Islamic Religious Department.

The other states that currently implement weekend holidays on Fridays and Saturdays are Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu. – Bernama



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SUMMARIES

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