



MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY



MEDIA STATEMENT



MALAYSIA RETAINS TOP SPOT IN EMERGING SOUTHEAST ASIA – REINFORCES POSITION AS REGIONAL INVESTMENT HUB

Malaysia continues to reinforce its position as a **leading investment destination** in the region, **ranking 23rd globally** and emerging as the **top-performing economy among selected Southeast Asian growth markets** in the **Global Opportunity Index (GOI) 2026** published by the Milken Institute yesterday (7 April 2026).

The report affirms Malaysia's strong and balanced investment ecosystem, underpinned by **sound economic fundamentals**, a **robust institutional framework**, and a **well-developed financial sector**. Among the six (6) Southeast Asian economies assessed (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam), **Malaysia recorded the highest overall score**, reflecting its structural strengths and policy consistency.

Malaysia's performance is particularly notable in **Financial Services (17th globally)** and **Business Perception (18th globally)**. These outcomes reflect continued progress in strengthening financial market depth, enhancing regulatory quality, and maintaining a conducive business environment that supports investor confidence and long-term capital formation.

The 2026 GOI report arrives at a critical juncture for investors navigating an environment of heightened volatility and geoeconomic uncertainty including the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Malaysia's strong performance in the report underscores its policy coherence and resilience, distinguishing it from regional competitors while solidifying its standing within a rapidly shifting investment landscape. Additionally, Malaysia's diversified economic structure, strong institutional frameworks, and proactive policy measures continue to provide stability and resilience, enabling the country to navigate global headwinds while sustaining investor confidence.

In this context, **Malaysia is actively advancing its role as a regional investment gateway**, leveraging on both **domestic reforms** and **cross-border economic integration initiatives**, ensuring alignment with ongoing national policy frameworks, including the MADANI Economy

Framework, New Investment Policy (NIP) based on National Investment Aspirations (NIA), New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030), National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), and the Thirteenth Malaysia Plan (13MP). These frameworks collectively aim to drive **structural transformation, accelerate digitalisation and green transition and promote sustainable, inclusive, and innovation-led growth.**

The Government will continue to implement targeted reforms to strengthen Malaysia's investment ecosystem, including in areas such as institutional quality, innovation capacity, and regulatory efficiency. Continuous improvements in governance, transparency, and ease of doing business remain central to ensuring Malaysia sustains its competitive advantage. Consequently, MITI and its agencies will intensify efforts to solidify Malaysia's position in global value chains, facilitate quality investments in priority sectors, and develop a high-calibre workforce while accelerating innovation, digital adoption and sustainable industrial practices. These efforts are critical in ensuring Malaysia remains well-positioned to translate global investment trends into tangible economic outcomes, including high-value job creation, technology transfer, and inclusive growth.

As global investment dynamics continue to evolve, Malaysia remains committed to maintaining a stable, predictable, and forward-looking policy environment that supports long-term investor confidence and reinforces its role as a key investment hub in Southeast Asia.

Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry

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