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Research Highlights

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Mega First to raise stake in packaging film subsidiary for RM33.0m
- DXN explores USD50.0m investment in Brazil
- BWYS to sell Bukit Changgang land for RM67.0m, acquire Tanjong Duabelas site for RM94.5m
- Cabnet bags RM14.8m electrical system work contracts
- KomarkCorp plans RM148.7m capital reduction to eliminate losses

MACRO BITS

- Trump threatens 'big retaliation' if Europe dumps US assets
- Trump touts 'total access' Greenland deal as NATO asks allies to step up
- Keeps OPR steady as growth stays firm and inflation remains contained (*See Economic Viewpoint: BNM MPC Meeting (22 January)*)
- Madani Rahmah sale programme expanded to 222 parliamentary constituencies since Jan 9
- New govt medical insurance plan to offer coverage up to age 85, enrolment capped at 70
- Govt mulls using net disposable income as new benchmark for assistance — deputy economy minister
- BNM international reserves up USD100.0m to USD125.6b as at Jan 15
- E&E among key sectors for potential investments this year, says Zafrul
- Growth of national debt service charges down to 6.4% in 2025 — MOF
- China's central bank governor reaffirms room for further easing to support growth
- US 3Q economic growth revised slightly higher
- ECB in no hurry to change rates, comfortable with market bets, accounts show

IDEAS OF THE DAY (SEE SEPARATE REPORTS FOR DETAILS)

- Sector Update: Plastic Packaging (1QCY26 Strategy)
- Rating Summary
- Economic Viewpoint: BNM MPC, Bond Market Weekly Outlook, Ringgit Weekly Outlook

Corporate News

- **Mega First to raise stake in packaging film subsidiary for RM33.0m**

Mega First Corp Bhd is to acquire an additional 12.5% stake in packaging film subsidiary Stenta Films (M) Sdn Bhd for RM33.1m in cash. Mega First, which already owns a 75.0% stake in Stenta, signed an agreement to acquire the additional shares from PT Argha Karya Prima Industry Tbk, Rentak Rimbun Sdn Bhd, Wong Kok Hwa and Ngoei Boon Liong. The higher stake in Stenta will allow the company to “secure stronger financial and strategic control over a profitable and strategically important business line, while positioning for growth in the packaging and industrial market”, Mega First said. (*The Edge Malaysia*)

- **DXN explores USD50.0m investment in Brazil**

DXN Holdings Bhd, a direct-selling company specialising in consumer health and wellness products, is exploring potential investments of up to USD50.0m (RM202.4m) in Brazil as it seeks to boost its presence in Latin America, its largest market. This group has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Brazil’s trade and investment promotion agency Apex-Brasil. The MOU provides a framework for preliminary discussions covering investment facilitation, agriculture-related production and market access as DXN assesses opportunities in Brazil, DXN said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia. (*The Edge Malaysia*)

- **BWYS to sell Bukit Changgang land for RM67.0m, acquire Tanjong Duabelas site for RM94.5m**

BWYS Group Bhd will sell its leasehold industrial land with buildings in Bukit Changgang, Kuala Langat, Selangor, for RM67.0m and acquire freehold industrial land in Tanjong Duabelas, Kuala Langat, for RM94.5m. The sheet metal products manufacturer and scaffoldings supplier said the proposed Bukit Changgang property disposal enables the group to unlock the value of a non-core asset and strengthen its financial position. (*The Edge Malaysia*)

- **Cabnet bags RM14.8m electrical system work contracts**

Cabnet Holdings Bhd, whose earnings more than halved in the first half of its financial year ending Feb 28, announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Cabnet M&E Sdn Bhd (CMESB), has won two contracts for electrical system works on shops and a serviced apartment project in Johor. The combined contract value stands at RM14.8m. CMESB accepted two letters of award from Haily Construction Sdn Bhd for the contracts, covering the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of electrical systems, the company said in the bourse filing. (*The Edge Malaysia*)

- **KomarkCorp plans RM148.7m capital reduction to eliminate losses**

KomarkCorp Bhd has proposed a share capital reduction of RM148.7m to offset its significant accumulated losses. The exercise will allow the self-adhesive label and face mask manufacturer to rationalise its financial position by eliminating accumulated losses, thereby enhancing its credibility with bankers, customers, suppliers and investors, the company said in a bourse filing. At the group level, KomarkCorp recorded accumulated losses of RM118.4m as at end-September 2025. Following the capital reduction, the group will have retained earnings of RM30.3m. (*The Edge Malaysia*)



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Macro Bits

Global

- [Trump threatens 'big retaliation' if Europe dumps US assets](#) President Donald Trump vowed “big retaliation” if European countries sell US assets in response to his tariff threats related to Greenland, adding pressure on them to stick with an emerging deal over the future of the island. “If they do, they do. But you know, if that would happen, there would be a big retaliation on our part,” Trump said Thursday during a Fox Business interview at the World Economic Forum in Davos. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [Trump touts 'total access' Greenland deal as NATO asks allies to step up](#) President Donald Trump said on Thursday he had secured total and permanent U.S. access to Greenland in a deal with NATO, whose head said allies would have to step up their commitment to Arctic security to ward off threats from Russia and China. *(Reuters)*

Malaysia

- [Keeps OPR steady as growth stays firm and inflation remains contained](#) Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) started the year by holding the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) at 2.75% at its first meeting of 2026, in line with our house view and market expectations. Outlook: OPR to stay unchanged at 2.75% through 2026, with stability prioritised. *(See Economic Viewpoint: BNM MPC Meeting (22 January))*
- [Madani Rahmah sale programme expanded to 222 parliamentary constituencies since Jan 9](#) The Madani Rahmah Sale Programme (PJRM) has been expanded nationwide from Jan 9, in line with the Madani government's commitment to addressing the people's cost-of-living issue. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [New govt medical insurance plan to offer coverage up to age 85, enrolment capped at 70](#) The government is introducing a new medical and health insurance/takaful (MHIT) plan, expected to be rolled out next year, which will offer coverage for Malaysians regardless of income up to the age of 85. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [Govt mulls using net disposable income as new benchmark for assistance — deputy economy minister](#) The government is considering the use of net disposable income (NDI) as a new benchmark for the provision of assistance, aimed at reducing exclusion risks and ensuring a fairer distribution of aid. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [BNM international reserves up USD100.0m to USD125.6b as at Jan 15](#) Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) international reserves rose by USD100.0m to USD125.6b as at Jan 15, 2026, according to the central bank's latest update released on Thursday. The reserve level is a tad above the previous high of USD125.5b as at Dec 31, 2025, marking the country's highest reserves position since 2014. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [E&E among key sectors for potential investments this year, says Zafrul](#) The electrical and electronics (E&E) sector, especially semiconductors, will continue to be among the key sectors for potential investments this year, according to Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) chairman Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz. He said this in reference to the new investment plan, noting that Mida has been focusing on diversification of industries for a long time. *(The Edge Malaysia)*
- [Growth of national debt service charges down to 6.4% in 2025 — MOF](#) The government has succeeded in slowing the growth of debt service charges in 2025 to 6.4%, compared with 12.3% in 2023 and 9.0% in 2024, as a result of the implementation of fiscal reform measures and prudent debt management. *(The Edge Malaysia)*

Asia Pacific

- [China's central bank governor reaffirms room for further easing to support growth](#) China's central bank governor Pan Gongsheng signalled there is room to further cut interest rates and inject liquidity into the banking system, echoing guidance from his deputy last week to keep monetary policy supportive for growth in 2026. *(The Edge Malaysia)*

Americas

- [US 3Q economic growth revised slightly higher](#) The US economy grew a bit faster than initially thought in the third quarter, the government said on Thursday, while corporate profits were also revised higher. Gross domestic product increased at an upwardly revised 4.4% annualised rate, the fastest pace since the third quarter of 2023, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said in its updated estimate of third-quarter GDP on Thursday. *(The Edge Malaysia)*

Europe

- [ECB in no hurry to change rates, comfortable with market bets, accounts show](#) European Central Bank policymakers are in no hurry to adjust interest rates as inflation is hovering near target and they appear comfortable with investor bets for steady rates all through 2026, the accounts of their December meeting showed on Thursday. *(Reuters)*



Stock Ratings are defined as follows:**Stock Recommendations**

OUTPERFORM	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is MORE than 10%
MARKET PERFORM	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is WITHIN the range of -5% to 10%
UNDERPERFORM	: A particular stock's Expected Total Return is LESS than -5%

Sector Recommendations***

OVERWEIGHT	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is MORE than 10%
NEUTRAL	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is WITHIN the range of -5% to 10%
UNDERWEIGHT	: A particular sector's Expected Total Return is LESS than -5%

*****Sector recommendations are defined based on market capitalisation weighted average expected total return for stocks under our coverage.**

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