



Daily Newswatch

Market Review

The FBM KLCI extended its decline for a second consecutive session, closing at 1,504.2 (-0.9%), mirroring weakness across regional markets. Among index constituents, the declines were led by IHH (-4.6%), with CDB and SIME each down (-2.5%). Sector-wise, Financial Services led the decline (-1.1%) with selling pressure observed in banking stocks such as AMBANK (-1.9%), CIMB (-1.9%) and MAYBANK (-1.7%), while Industrial Products & Services (-0.4%) and Consumer Products & Services (-0.5%) also saw pullbacks. Nonetheless, the overall market breadth was nearly balanced, with 479 advancers versus 453 decliners.

Macro News

- US:** Labour market remains stable, but job opportunities limited
- US:** Powell downplays growing risks, sees tariff impact as transitory
- EU:** Delays first tariffs against US to mid-April
- EU:** Lagarde says rising uncertainty means ECB can't commit on rates
- Swiss:** National Bank cuts key rate, sees low inflationary pressure
- UK:** Bank of England holds rates at 4.5% as doves turn cautious
- UK:** Posts strong wage growth ahead of BOE rate decision
- China:** Holds benchmark lending rates steady as expected

Corporate News

- IWCITY:** Unveils regularisation plan to convert debt into equity, issue new shares
- Scanwolf:** Secures RM42 mil sub-structure contract for mixed-use project in KL in related-party deal
- Reservoir Link:** Secures RM11.6m contract to build rooftop solar generating facility
- Hextar Global:** To sell Petromin lubricants in Malaysia
- Legenda Properties:** Acquires freehold land in Senawang from Land & General for RM60.2m
- Salcon:** Bags RM167m contract for water treatment plant in Melaka
- Tropicana:** Completes SouthPlace Residences, delivers vacant possession
- CMSB:** Sues deputy chairman Abu Bekir Taib, five others over failed project
- IJM:** Files report with MCMC over false allegations, warns of legal action

Upcoming key economic data releases	Date
Malaysia – Feb 2025 Inflation Rate	Mar 21
US – Mar 2025 Manufacturing PMI	Apr 01
US – Mar 2025 NFP, Unemployment Rate	Apr 04
US – Mar 2025 CPI	Apr 10
Malaysia – Feb 2025 Unemployment Rate	Apr 10
US – Mar 2025 PPI	Apr 11
US – Mar 2025 Retail Sales	Apr 16
Malaysia – Mar 2025 Inflation Rate	Apr 23

Key Indices	Last Close	Daily chg %	YTD chg %
FBM KLCI	1,504.2	(0.9)	(8.4)
Dow Jones	41,953.3	(0.0)	(1.4)
Nasdaq CI	17,691.6	(0.3)	(8.4)
S&P 500	5,662.9	(0.2)	(3.7)
FTSE 100	8,702.0	(0.1)	6.5
Nikkei 225	37,886.1	0.4	(5.0)
Shanghai CI	3,408.9	(0.5)	1.7
HSI	24,220.0	(2.2)	20.7
STI	3,930.5	0.0	3.8

Market Activities	Last Close	% Chg
Vol traded (m shares)	3,269.8	11.8
Value traded (RM m)	2,642.8	(3.3)
Gainers	479	
Losers	453	
Unchanged	459	

Top 5 Volume	Last Close	Daily chg %	Vol (m)
RENEUCO	0.050	25.0	75.1
MYEG	0.920	(2.1)	67.6
VS	0.810	(10.5)	53.7
PERTAMA	0.170	0.0	53.1
IJM	2.000	3.6	39.9

Top 5 Turnover	Last Close	Daily chg %	Val (RM m)
CIMB	6.800	(1.9)	265.7
PBBANK	4.480	(1.3)	122.6
GAMUDA	3.950	(0.8)	122.6
IHH	6.770	(4.6)	96.4
MAYBANK	10.180	(1.7)	95.7

Currencies	Last Close	% Chg
USD/MYR	4.427	(0.1)
USD/JPY	148.910	(0.1)
EUR/USD	1.085	0.0
USD/CNY	7.249	(0.3)
US Dollar Index	103.847	(0.0)

Commodities	Last Close	% Chg
Brent (USD/barrel)	72.4	0.5
Gold (USD/troy oz)	3,044.7	(0.0)
CPO (MYR/metric t)	4,680.0	0.2
Bitcoin (USD/BTC)	84,272.5	(0.3)



Macro News

US: Labour market remains stable, but job opportunities limited

The number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits increased slightly last week, suggesting the labour market remained stable in March, though the outlook is darkening amid rising trade tensions and deep cuts in government spending. Despite the low level of layoffs, more people are staying on jobless rolls longer compared to the same period last year. Economists say still-high interest rates and policy uncertainty are making companies cautious about increasing headcount. "The data continue to tell a story of relatively few private-sector layoffs but limited employment opportunities for those who are unemployed," said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead US economist at Oxford Economics. *(Reuters)*

US: Powell downplays growing risks, sees tariff impact as transitory

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell downplayed concerns over slowing U.S. economic growth and inflationary risks from tariffs, maintaining the Fed's stance that the impact will likely be "transitory." Despite mounting market fears, the FOMC held interest rates steady at 4.25%-4.5% and signaled two potential rate cuts this year, while Powell dismissed elevated long-term inflation expectations as an "outlier." While markets reacted positively, some economists warned that underestimating inflationary risks—similar to the Fed's misjudgment during the COVID-19 recovery—could undermine its credibility and force more aggressive action later. *(Bloomberg)*

EU: Delays first tariffs against US to mid-April

The European Union has delayed its first counter-measures against the United States over President Donald Trump's metals tariffs until mid-April, allowing it to re-think which US goods to hit and offering extra weeks for negotiations. The European Commission had proposed re-imposing 2018 tariffs on €4.5bn (US\$4.9bn or RM21.6bn) of US products on April 1, followed by hitting a further €18bn of US goods on April 13. "We are now considering to align the timing of the two sets of EU counter-measures so we can consult with member states on both lists simultaneously, and this would also give us extra time for negotiations with our American partners," European Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic told a hearing at the European Parliament on Thursday. *(Bloomberg)*

EU: Lagarde says rising uncertainty means ECB can't commit on rates

The European Central Bank (ECB) is unable to make firm commitments on interest rates due to elevated unpredictability over trade, according to President Christine Lagarde. While the process of disinflation remains "well on track", Lagarde told European lawmakers in Brussels that the eurozone is particularly exposed to shifts in tariffs, weakening confidence in the ECB's projections. "Especially in current conditions of rising uncertainty, we will follow a data-dependent and meeting-by-meeting approach to determining the appropriate monetary-policy stance," Lagarde said Thursday. "We are not pre-committing to a particular rate path." *(Bloomberg)*

Swiss: National Bank cuts key rate, sees low inflationary pressure

The Swiss National Bank cut its policy interest rate by 25 basis points on Thursday, leaving borrowing costs just above zero, arguing that inflationary pressures were low despite uncertainty over the impact of US President Donald Trump's trade policies. The SNB reduced its key rate to 0.3% from 0.5%, its fifth successive cut since it started lowering borrowing costs in March



2024, matching economists' expectations in a Reuters poll. The Swiss franc weakened slightly against both the euro and the dollar after the decision. (*Bloomberg*)

UK: Bank of England holds rates at 4.5% as doves turn cautious

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee voted 8-1 to maintain the benchmark interest rate at 4.5%, reflecting a more cautious stance amid global economic uncertainties. Notably, typically dovish members, including Deputy Governor Dave Ramsden and Alan Taylor, shifted to support holding rates steady, citing concerns over rising wage growth and inflation expectations. The BOE forecasts inflation to reach 3.75% later this year, nearly double its 2% target, and emphasized the need for a "gradual and careful" approach to future monetary policy decisions. (*Bloomberg*)

UK: Posts strong wage growth ahead of BOE rate decision

UK wage growth held at its highest level in nine months and employment rose, evidence of resilient demand for workers that will likely keep the Bank of England cautious over further rate cuts. Average pay excluding bonuses rose 5.9% in the three months through January, the Office for National Statistics said Thursday. It was in line with economists' expectations. Private-sector pay growth, the gauge being watched closely by the BOE, eased modestly to 6.1% from 6.2%. There was little sign of big job losses materialising as feared following a hike in employment costs in Labour's first budget. Tax data showed the number of payrolled employees rose 21,000 in February, defying expectations for a fall of the same size. The measure is flat since October when Labour announced a £26bn (US\$33.7bn or RM148.9bn) hike in payroll taxes and another hefty rise in the minimum wage. (*Reuters*)

China: Holds benchmark lending rates steady as expected

China kept its benchmark lending rates unchanged for the fifth consecutive month in March, aligning with market expectations, as early signs of economic recovery and narrowing bank profit margins reduced the urgency for further easing. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) signaled future interest rate and reserve requirement ratio (RRR) cuts but is waiting for a more favorable market environment, particularly concerning the yuan's stability amid U.S. trade tensions. Analysts believe additional monetary easing is likely this year, but Beijing remains cautious to avoid excessive depreciation pressure on the yuan. (*Reuters*)

Corporate News

IWCITY: Unveils regularisation plan to convert debt into equity, issue new shares

Iskandar Waterfront City Bhd has proposed a regularisation plan involving the issuance of new shares to settle outstanding debts, a private placement and a capital reduction in order to exit its affected listed issuer status. In a bourse filing, the property developer said it had entered into a conditional settlement agreement with Rampai Fokus Sdn Bhd — an indirect wholly-owned unit of its major shareholder, Iskandar Waterfront Holding Sdn Bhd — to convert the amount it owed to RFSB into IWCity shares. RFSB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Danga Bay Sdn Bhd, which is in turn a unit of Iskandar Waterfront Holding. (*The Edge*)

Scanwolf: Secures RM42mil sub-structure contract for mixed-use project in KL in related-party deal

Scanwolf Corp Bhd has secured a RM42m contract for sub-structure works on two commercial blocks in Jalan Ampang in a related-party transaction (RPT). In a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Thursday, Scanwolf said its wholly owned subsidiary, Scanwolf Builder Sdn Bhd (SBSB), has



accepted the letter of award from Fixus Construction Sdn Bhd. The transaction is classified as an RPT as Scanwolf's managing director and major shareholder, Eddy Seah Ley Hong, who holds a 60.6% stake, is also the sole shareholder and a director of Fixus Construction. *(The Edge)*

Reservoir Link: Secures RM11.6m contract to build rooftop solar generating facility

Nasdaq-listed Founder Group Bhd, a subsidiary of Reservoir Link Energy Bhd, has secured a RM11.6m contract to build a rooftop solar generating facility in Malaysia. Under the agreement, Founder Group will serve as contractor for the design, engineering, procurement, supply, delivery, construction and commissioning of a rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) generating facility. In a statement, Founder Group said the construction contract is expected to be completed in 2 years. *(The Edge)*

Hextar Global: To sell Petromin lubricants in Malaysia

Hextar Oiltech Sdn Bhd, a 60%-owned subsidiary of Hextar Global Bhd, has been appointed as an exclusive distributor of Petromin's premium lubricant in Malaysia. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Thursday, Hextar Oiltech said it has entered into a legally binding distribution agreement with Technolube LLC, a subsidiary of Saudi-based Petrolube Group for the distributorship. Under the terms of the agreement, Hextar Oiltech will be responsible for stocking, trading, distributing, and selling Technolube's products in Malaysia. *(The Edge)*

Lagenda Properties: Acquires freehold land in Senawang from Land & General for RM60.2m

Property developer Lagenda Properties Bhd is acquiring 6 parcels of freehold land in Senawang, Negeri Sembilan, measuring 138.2 acres, for RM60.2m. In a bourse filing on Thursday, Lagenda Properties said its wholly-owned subsidiary Vivafirst Sdn Bhd has entered into a sale and purchase agreement with Land & General Bhd's unit Bright Term Sdn Bhd (BTSE) for the acquisition. Lagenda Properties described the acquisition as a strategic move to expand its landbank and establish a foothold in Negeri Sembilan, marking its presence in a sixth state as part of its nationwide growth strategy. *(The Edge)*

Salcon: Bags RM167m contract for water treatment plant in Melaka

Water and wastewater engineering company Salcon Bhd has secured a RM167m contract for the construction of a new water treatment plant, raw water pipeline, and related infrastructure in Melaka.

The contract was awarded to Salcon Engineering Bhd (SEB), a wholly owned subsidiary of Salcon, by Pengurusan Aset Air Bhd (PAAB). PAAB, a wholly owned entity of the Minister of Finance Inc, is responsible for developing the nation's water infrastructure in Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Labuan. According to Salcon's bourse filing on Thursday, the project includes the construction, completion, and commissioning of a 1,200mm diameter raw water main pipeline and a 90m litres per day (MLD) water treatment plant. *(The Edge)*

Tropicana: Completes SouthPlace Residences, delivers vacant possession

Tropicana Corporation Bhd has handed over vacant possession to homeowners of SouthPlace Residences at Tropicana Metropark, Subang Jaya. The 88-acre integrated township, inspired by Melbourne's Yarra River, now sees its fourth residential development completed. The fully sold freehold serviced residences span four acres, offering built-ups from 500 to 700 sq ft with a modern minimalist design. The units feature large window panels for natural light and overlook



the 9.2-acre Urban Park. Residents also have direct access to SouthPlace Shoppes below, home to tenants such as Mercato, Healthlane Family Pharmacy, Anytime Fitness, and The General Dining. Ixora Ang, the managing director of marketing and sales and business development at Tropicana, highlighted the development's strategic location and quality standards. *(The Edge)*

CMSB: Sues deputy chairman Abu Bekir Taib, five others over failed project

Cahaya Mata Sarawak Bhd (CMSB) has filed a lawsuit against its deputy chairman Datuk Seri Mahmud Abu Bekir Taib and other former executives over alleged breaches of trust and fiduciary duties related to a failed ERP system under its digital transformation project. The company accuses Abu Bekir, along with former CMIT executives and software vendors, of misconduct, conflict of interest, and failure to protect the company's interests, seeking legal remedies including damages. *(The Edge)*

IJM: Files report with MCMC over false allegations, warns of legal action

IJM Corp Bhd has strongly denied false online allegations regarding its leadership and operations, reaffirming its commitment to corporate governance, transparency, and integrity. The company reported the matter to the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and may pursue legal action if necessary while also clarifying that the MRT3 tender process was open and competitive, with no improper influence. *(The Edge)*

Stock Selection Based on Dividend Yield

	Sector	Price (RM)	Dividend/Share (RM)	Dividend Yield (%)
Bermaz Auto	Consumer	1.11	0.15	13.78
Hektar REITS	REIT	0.48	0.04	8.96
British American Tobacco (M)	Consumer	6.10	0.54	8.85
Amway (M)	Consumer	5.49	0.47	8.56
Sentral REIT	REIT	0.78	0.06	8.26
YTL Hospital REIT	REIT	1.02	0.08	8.14
REXIT	Technology	0.64	0.05	7.81
KIP REIT	REIT	0.87	0.07	7.70
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust	REIT	0.65	0.05	7.44
Paramount Corporation	Property	1.04	0.07	7.21
Ta Ann Holdings	Plantation	3.82	0.27	7.17
MBM Resources	Consumer	5.45	0.39	7.14
Taliworks Corporation	Utilities	0.71	0.05	7.09
MAG Holdings	Consumer	1.22	0.08	6.72
Magnum	Consumer	1.22	0.08	6.72

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		
Lim Seong Hai Capital Bhd	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
SumiSaujana Group Berhad	ACE Market	0.24	310.0	90.0	25 Mar	09 Apr

Disclaimer & Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

The information contained in this report is based on data obtained from data and sources believed to be reliable at the time of issue of this report. However, the data and/or sources have not been independently verified and as such, no representation, express or implied, are made as to the accuracy, adequacy, completeness or reliability of the information or opinions in this report.

This report may contain forward-looking statements which are often but not always identified by the use of words such as “believe”, “estimate”, “intend” and “expect” and statements that an event or result “may”, “will” or “might” occur or be achieved and other similar expressions. Such forward-looking statements are based on assumptions made and information currently available to Mercury Securities Sdn Bhd. (“Mercury Securities”) and are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievement to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievement, expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Caution should be taken with respect to such statements and recipients of this report should not place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements. Mercury Securities expressly disclaims any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or circumstances after the date of this publication or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Accordingly, neither Mercury Securities nor any of its holding company, related companies, directors, employees, agents and/or associates nor person connected to it accept any liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect, or consequential losses (including loss of profits) or damages that may arise from the use or reliance on the information or opinions in this publication. Any information, opinions or recommendations contained herein are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Mercury Securities has no obligation to update its opinion or the information in this report.

This report does not have regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation and particular needs of any specific person. Accordingly, investors are advised to make their own independent evaluation of the information contained in this report and seek advice from, amongst others, tax, accounting, financial planner, legal or other business professionals regarding the appropriateness of investing in any securities or the investment strategies discussed or recommended in this report. Nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting or tax advice or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to your individual circumstances or otherwise represents a personal recommendation to you. This report is not intended, and should not under no circumstances be considered as an offer to sell or a solicitation of any offer or a solicitation or expression of views to influence any one to buy or sell the securities referred to herein or any related financial instruments.

Mercury Securities and its holding company, related companies, directors, employees, agents, associates and/or person connected with it may, from time to time, hold any positions in the securities and/or capital market products (including but not limited to shares, warrants and/or derivatives), trade or otherwise effect transactions for its own account or the account of its customers or be materially interested in any securities mentioned herein or any securities related thereto, and may further act as market maker or have assumed underwriting commitment or deal with such securities and provide advisory, investment, share margin facility or other services for or do business with any companies or entities mentioned in this report. In reviewing the report, investors should be aware that any or all of the foregoing among other things, may give rise to real or potential conflict of interests and should exercise their own judgement before making any investment decisions.

This research report is being supplied to you on a strictly confidential basis solely for your information and is made strictly on the basis that it will remain confidential. All materials presented in this report, unless specifically indicated otherwise, are under copyright to Mercury Securities. This research report and its contents may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, redistributed, transmitted, or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any person or published in whole or in part, or altered in any way, for any purpose.

This report may provide the addresses of, or contain hyperlinks to websites. Mercury Securities takes no responsibility for the content contained therein. Such addresses or hyperlinks (including addresses or hyperlinks to Mercury Securities own website material) are provided solely for your convenience. The information and the content of the linked site do not in any way form part of this report. Accessing such website or following such link through the report or Mercury Securities’ website shall be at your own risk.

This report is not directed to or intended for distribution or publication outside Malaysia. If you are outside Malaysia, you should have regard to the laws of the jurisdiction in which you are located.

The views expressed in this research report accurately reflect the analyst’s personal views about any and all of the subject securities or issuers; and no part of the research analyst’s compensation was, is or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in the report.

Published & Printed By:

MERCURY SECURITIES SDN BHD
Registration No. 198401000672 (113193-W)
L-7-2, No 2, Jalan Solaris, Solaris Mont’ Kiara,
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Telephone: (603) - 6203 7227
Website: www.mercurysecurities.com.my
Email: mercurykl@mersec.com.my