

New policies coming into force in 2025

Malaysiakini

31 December 2025

Bernama

In less than 24 hours, not only will the calendar change, but Malaysia will also witness the implementation of several important developments that will directly and indirectly affect personal and national lives.

In addition to changes in geopolitical, economic, social, and international relations, several new policies and regulations will come into effect tomorrow.

Among them, Malaysia will officially take over as the Asean chair after Laos handed over the responsibility during the 44th and 45th Asean Summits in Vientiane on Oct 11.

Under the theme of “Inclusion and Sustainability”, Malaysia will host over 300 Asean meetings and summits throughout the year, including the Asean Economic Ministers' Retreat in Johor (February), the Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Post-Ministerial Conference in Kuala Lumpur (July), and the 47th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur in October.

Malaysia previously chaired Asean in 1977, 1997, 2005, and 2015.

Social media licensing

In addition, several new laws will come into effect tomorrow including the enforcement of the Content Application Service Provider Licence which requires social media platforms to apply for a licence with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

This requirement, under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, 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 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, shopping 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.

Enhanced safety net, subsidies

Starting tomorrow, hawkers and licensed traders are required to contribute to the Self-Employment Social Security Scheme 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 Aug 30 through PU (A) 229 and came into effect on Sept 1.

In addition, the rate of the FLYsiswa 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 [here](#).

Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB) will implement completely cashless payment for ticket purchases in the Klang Valley, North and South sectors as well as the East Coast, to support the country's digital economy initiative.

Starting tomorrow, all childcare centres registered with the Department of Social

Welfare 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 tomorrow, in line with the Companies Commission of Malaysia's commitment to improve auditing quality and reduce the compliance burden faced by private companies.

In addition, starting tomorrow, Johor will return to implementing weekend holidays on Saturdays and Sundays following the decree of Johor Regent Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sultan Ibrahim on Oct 7, with the approval of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar 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.

Meanwhile, former Sabah chief minister Musa Aman will begin his duties as the 11th governor of the state, replacing Johar Mahiruddin, whose term of office ends today after holding the position since 2011.

The Agong Sultan Ibrahim agreed to appoint Musa, 73, who is also a former assemblyperson for Sungai Sibuga on Dec 17, in addition to being awarded the

title of Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara, which carries the title of Tun.

- Bernama

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/730273>