

ISSUE 264

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WEEKLY INSIGHTS

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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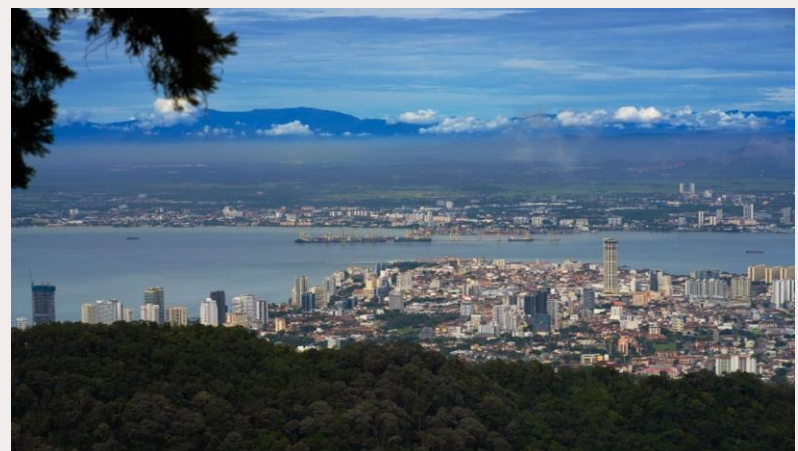
MBPP's guideline on short-term rental take immediate effect

Penang Island City Council (MBPP) has recently established a guideline that prohibits all forms of short-term rental (STR) accommodation in residential units on the island. The ban, effective immediately, aims to regulate the STR industry and maintain the integrity of residential neighborhoods.

Under the new regulation, private residential properties are strictly forbidden from engaging in STR business. Only commercial high-rises are permitted to offer STR services, subject to stringent regulations. However, even commercial properties must obtain approval from their respective joint management bodies (JMBs) or management corporations (MCs) before commencing STR operations.

To gain approval, STR providers in commercial categories must secure a 75% majority vote from other residents during the annual general meeting. Additionally, JMBs and MCs are required to collect an annual fee ranging from RM250 to RM500 per unit, with new registration fees of up to RM250.

To ensure compliance, the MBPP mandates that all approved units must be registered with the council. Furthermore, property owners must provide documentation from the Companies Commission of Malaysia. [READ MORE](#)



Tourism Ministry allocates RM25mil for cultural sector matching grants

The Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry has allocated RM25mil for cultural sector matching grants, as an initiative for industry players and stakeholders after the country entered the endemic phase of Covid-19.

National Department for Culture and Arts deputy director-general (Policy and Planning Sector), Mohd Amran Mohd Haris, said that the grant was also earmarked to reactivate various cultural programmes more proactively, and applications could be made through the minister or the state department.

"The issuance of cultural sector matching grants started last year, with a similar annual allocation of RM25mil.

"The grant allocation for this year was approved in the recent second series budget, and it is open to non-governmental organisations and those involved in the cultural sector," he told Bernama here today (May 28).

He said thus far, his department is in the process of collecting the grant applications, and the first committee meeting to consider the applications will be held in the near future. [READ MORE](#)



Holiday boon expected for Kota Tinggi tourism

Tourism players in Kota Tinggi, Johor, are expecting a good number of visitors, especially domestic tourists, during the current school holidays.

Lotus Desaru Beach Resort and Spa chief executive officer R. Indra Gandhi Pillai said, “We received many enquiries from locals and a small number of foreigners, including Singaporeans, wanting to stay with us during this period.

“There are 750 rooms at our resort with 70% of them booked for the school break.”

Indra added that many people were looking forward to taking a break from their busy schedules.

“As we are located on a beach, it can get a bit cold at night, which will offer some comfort to our guests during this current hot spell,” she said.

Kota Tinggi Tourism Association honorary secretary Rafeah Mohd Noah said the district had much to offer both domestic and international visitors. [READ MORE](#)



Improved services with Perak Hotel Enactment passed

With the newly-passed Perak Hotel Enactment, tourists will be able to enjoy better services.

Malaysia Budget Hotel Association (myBHA) Perak chapter chairman Zamari Muhyi (pic) said with a new set of rules and regulations, all legitimate premises offering accommodations can control various issues, including safety, cleanliness and public nuisance. “As hotel operators, we should aim to provide the best services for the comfort of guests.

“When all operators play their role, it will also improve the image of our industry,” he said.

“It is also in the interests of all hotel and lodging operators to join an association, whereby they can get proper training, information and also incentives or aid from the government,” he said following the passing of the enactment during the Perak state assembly sitting here yesterday, where 32 assemblymen in the 59-member assembly voted in favour.

The Perak Hotel Enactment replaces the Boarding House Enactment, which had been in use since 1927, and allow hotels and other accommodation premises to regulate various issues. [READ MORE](#)



Hotel association wants Melaka govt to address issue of illegal short-term rentals

Hoteliers here have been pushing for a mechanism to regulate short-term residential accommodations (STRA) for almost a decade, says the Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH).

Melaka chapter chairman Khairulnizam Kasim said the issue was brought up in various meetings with the state government for many years but illegal STRA continued to mushroom, especially in stratified residential buildings.

"Illegal short-term rentals here have caused concern not only among the hotel industry but also legal ones registered with the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry," he said in an interview on Monday (May 29).

Khairulnizam said the state government has to draw a line between residential strata properties and those who are allowed to have STRA. "Presently, everything is mixed-up, even residential strata properties are being turned into unlicensed accommodations," he said.

Khairulnizam said the issue was raised in the state legislative assembly earlier this year but until now there were no enforcement efforts to monitor such accommodations. [READ MORE](#)



IHG to open 12 'Next Generation' Holiday Inn Express hotels across Saudi Arabia under MDA with Tashyid for Hotel Operations

IHG® Hotels & Resorts, has signed a Master Development Agreement (MDA) with Tashyid for Hotel Operations, which will see the development of 12 hotels and 2,500 keys under the Holiday Inn Express brand across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With Ministry of Tourism encouraging such investments in the Kingdom, the signing took place in the presence Mr. Mahmoud Abdulhadi, Deputy Minister for Destination Enablement.

The agreement will allow IHG to expand and diversify its mainstream offering across Saudi Arabia, in line with the demand being created by initiatives under Saudi Vision 2030.

As a world-renowned brand, Holiday Inn Express champions simple, smart travel by providing a launch pad for guests to make their connection and is highly suitable and well-positioned for new-age smart travellers visiting Saudi Arabia across business, leisure, and meetings segments, including Saudi's biggest and growing demographic of millennials and Generation Z travellers. [READ MORE](#)

