

Company Name : Empire Premium Food Berhad
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FLEXIBLE FORMATS

Empire Sushi to roll out 150 more outlets

KUALA LUMPUR: Empire Premium Food Bhd, the owner and operator of the Empire Sushi brand, sees room to add another 150 outlets over the next three to five years.

Chief executive officer Nicole Lim said yesterday the group's priority remained expanding Empire Sushi, including expansion into Sabah and Sarawak.

"We will focus on the Malaysian market. If we have a good opportunity, then we will consider," she said after the group's annual general meeting (AGM).

Lim said Sabah and Sarawak remained attractive growth markets.

Empire Sushi had 143 outlets at the end of financial year 2026, up from 122 a year earlier.

As at June 30, 2026, its network had grown further to 151 outlets, comprising 133 grab-and-go and 18 quick dine-in outlets.

Lim said Empire Premium's flexible outlet formats, ranging from 200 sq ft to 2,000 sq ft, allowed it to expand beyond shopping malls into supermarkets, transit hubs, MRT stations and airports.



Empire Premium Food Bhd's says Sabah and Sarawak remain attractive growth markets. NSTP FILE PIC

The group has one airport outlet and could increase this to five to seven next year, she added.

For financial year 2027, Empire Premium has signed contracts with malls for 23 new outlets, although Lim stressed that expansion was not based purely on outlet numbers.

"It's not the number of outlets. The outlets have to be profitable," she said, adding that the group would assess locations and demand before opening new stores.

Lim said the group remained comfortable with its current expansion pace and would continue prioritizing sustainable growth over simply increasing its store count.

The group is also open to acquiring other food and beverage (F&B) brands if the right opportunity emerges, but has no immediate plans to do so, she said.

On its financial outlook, Lim said

the company expected to maintain its financial year 2026 profit margin of 15.4 per cent in financial year 2027 despite cost pressures, particularly logistics costs.

She added that the group was confident about its financial year 2027 performance, supported by its track record of improving results over the past three financial years.

On costs, she said the group had locked in contracts for its raw materials until the end of September, providing some visibility on input costs.

She also said Empire Sushi had no immediate plans to raise sushi prices despite higher costs, instead opting to refresh its menu every quarter to support sales.

At the AGM, shareholders approved all resolutions tabled, including a final single-tier dividend of 0.65 sen per ordinary share for financial year 2026, payable on Oct 9.