

Anwar has crowd in stitches with his humour

PETALING JAYA: A forum on building an inclusive digital entrepreneurship can be a dry, serious affair.

But, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and fellow speakers at the first Digital Dialogue Series forum gave the audience plenty of laughs and light-hearted moments when they spoke on the subject.

“I’m new to this digital economy. There were no smartphones or

computers in prison. There were only the ‘classics’ - books, pen, and paper,” he said of his time when he was sent to jail several years ago.

He added that he had spent the last few months learning about the digital economy ahead of the Digital Native Agenda 23 (DNA 23) launch.

“I’ve been learning about things like IoT (Internet of Things) - I never heard of it when I was in prison!” he added.

There was more self-deprecating humour from the PKR president as he recalled how he thought ride-sharing services “would never work” when fellow forum speaker Mitch Kapor told him about it years ago.

Entrepreneur and investor Ganesh Bangah then made a quip during his speech about the importance of believing and persisting in one’s mission in life.

“You must always believe that you’re destined to do something. If you’re destined to become the prime minister, you will become the prime minister,” he said, to a round of laughter and applause.

Digital Durian CEO Sinan Ismail also entertained the audience with his frank admission of why he became a digital entrepreneur - so he could have the flexibility to watch Manchester United’s football

matches late at night.

“It wasn’t about adding value to people’s lives.

“I became an entrepreneur because I wanted to watch football, and because I love Optimus Prime - and cartoons in general,” said Sinan, whose company now produces the popular *Didi & Friends* animated series.

“But that was 11 years ago,” he quickly said.