

'CONCERNS OVER DIGITAL ID UNFOUNDED'

Nothing to fear over possible leak of personal info as nation must embrace technology, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday stressed that the people's concerns about the implementation of the National Digital Identity programme or Digital ID, such as personal and banking records being leaked and chips implanted into one's body, are completely unfounded.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said that when talking about digital transformation, the people must accept the fact that Malaysia should advance in line with current development, including the use of technology.

"What is there to be afraid of, is it over personal issues? Bank Negara Malaysia will not release personal banking details. So, that is under control.

"There are people who say that chips will be implanted into our body and so on," he said when quoted by Bernama.

He said that kind of thinking was the result of watching too many Hollywood movies.

Anwar said this after registering for the programme here yesterday, making him the first Malaysian to have a Digital ID.

The others who also registered were Deputy Prime Ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also the Minister



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim registering for the National Digital Identity programme in Putrajaya yesterday. With him are Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil (right) and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang (third from left). Anwar is the first Malaysian to register for the National Digital Identity programme. BERNAMA PIC

of Rural and Regional Development, and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who is also the Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities.

Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said, Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd

Zuki Ali also registered for the Digital ID.

Anwar said that before making any comment on Digital ID, one should listen first to the explanations given by the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) and Communications and Digital Ministry regarding the Digital ID so as not to affect the people's confidence in the programme.

While stressing that the government won't force anyone to register with the Digital ID for now, Anwar, however encouraged all civil servants to do so, as the Rahmah Cash Aid programme and other targeted subsidies schemes would be channelled through Digital ID.

At a separate event, Anwar hinted that he might reshuffle the cabinet of the unity government, which celebrated its first year anniversary last month, before the end of this month.

He said this when talking with Mohd Akmal Afif Yaseer Arafat, a 12-year-old boy who joined members of the media during a doorstep press conference in front of Putra Al-Amin prayer hall at Fasa 4C of Presint 18 here yesterday.

The conversation started when Anwar asked Akmal Afif, a pupil of SK Putrajaya Presint 8 (2) here, about whether he had any question to ask.

Taking a cue from reporters, Akmal Afif proceeded to ask Anwar when the latter would reshuf-

fle his cabinet.

Anwar responded by asking Akmal Afif when he wanted him to carry out the cabinet reshuffle.

"He (Akmal Afif) said before 2024. Therefore, I agree with his (Akmal Afif's) proposal on the cabinet reshuffle," Anwar said in jest.

The friendly exchange between Anwar and Akmal Afif caught the attention of many people at the event.

Akmal Afif said he was nervous but happy to meet the prime minister.

"Before this, I saw him only on the television.

"Today, I finally got the chance to meet the prime minister in person."