

BANGKOK: The government is considering tightening laws to protect Malaysians from being conned by syndicates offering fake job offers abroad.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said there were many who became scam victims as the syndicates were hiding abroad including in Myanmar.

"We have taken a rather tough stand. We also urge Malaysians to be more vigilant and not easily deceived.

"The Communications and Digital Ministry and the Royal Malaysia Police are taking necessary measures including tightening laws," he told Malaysian reporters after ending his two-day work visit here, Bernama reported.

Most of these syndicates would trick their victims using job ads on social media including Facebook, offering positions as customer service officers abroad with lucrative salaries.

After securing the victims' consent, the agent would inform them that they would handle the expenses of travelling to the work destination and upon arrival, all the victims' travel documents and phones would be seized and destroyed.

Victims would then be detained and controlled strictly and forced to work either as scammers or in online gambling operations.

Earlier, Anwar also said the government had not decided on whether

Govt aiming to end job scams

Anwar: We're taking a tough stand and urge M'sians to be vigilant



Multi-faith meet: Anwar meeting with religious leaders of various faiths after Friday prayers in Bangkok.
- Bernama

er to legalise the use of cannabis for medical purposes in the country.

He said the government was still waiting for the Health Ministry's recommendations before deciding on the matter.

"We will wait for the findings. There are issues affecting security," he said when asked whether

Malaysia would continue or stop the research on the use of cannabis for medical purposes.

Former health minister Khairy Jamaluddin went on a working visit to Thailand in August last year to assess the potential use of cannabis for medical purposes and the legal framework involved.

Khairy said then that the government would study Thailand's experience to adapt it to the Malaysian context before deciding on the matter.

Thailand is the first country in South-East Asia to legalise the use of cannabis for medical purposes.

Yesterday, Anwar performed

Friday prayers at the Islamic Centre of Thailand here.

Together with hundreds of worshippers, he listened to a sermon by Imam Shafie Napakom who later led the prayers.

Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

The Prime Minister also met Muslim leaders and people from the local communities after Friday prayers.

In his speech, Anwar thanked the Thai government and authorities for forging a good relationship with the Muslims in the kingdom.

He also reiterated Malaysia's commitment to the peace talks aimed at resolving the long-standing conflict in southern Thailand.

Duped job seekers to return

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