

## **ACHIEVE VIA COLLABORATIVE APPROACH**

# 'Malaysia can emerge as a great nation in 2 or 3 years'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday expressed confidence that Malaysia can emerge as a great nation within the next two to three years.

He said the target could be materialised through a collaborative approach involving all parties, including civil servants.

"I'm expressing my idea, an open concept in terms of approach so that the civil servants can provide full cooperation.

"I believe because Allah has tested me a lot and there is patience and (I am becoming) more rational.

"After experiencing the trials and tribulations in politics and seeing what has happened in the country's previous administration, I believe with a new spirit, give it two or three years, Malaysia can emerge as a great nation," he said at the launch of the Public Service Madani Colloquium.

Malaysia, he said, used to be known as the East Asian miracle, due to its dramatic economic growth.

However, he said based on Boston Consulting Group's Seda (Sustainable Economic Develop-

ment Assessment), the country's economic development had been stagnant since the late 1990s.

"From Seda's point of view, Malaysia's threshold has been moderate since the late '90s. Unlike countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand. This is frustrating... what is wrong with our society and nation? Hence, we must do something about it."

Anwar also called for the old method of approving foreign investment activities to be revamped and accelerated.

"If the regulations and technicalities are hindering foreign investment, it is not wrong to 'breach a bit', as long as it is not related to corruption and misconduct."

Anwar said he was disappointed when investors he met during his recent trip to New York complained that Malaysia was too slow in terms of approval, especially when compared with Vietnam.

"Some (investors) have to wait eight months to get the approval. This cannot be prolonged. We can breach the rules a little as long as it's not corruption or misconduct and I have discussed it with the auditor general."