

Upskilling local talent in AI, engineering

THE government will enhance the skills and capabilities of local talent, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and engineering, to meet the demands of high-impact investors.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said during his overseas visits and discussions with companies such as Chinese car maker Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Go Ltd (Geely) and Infineon Technologies AG, they had highlighted the need for Malaysia to further develop its skilled workforce.

"Such matters regarding the manufacturing ecosystem are valid. In our discussions with Tesla chief executive officer Elon Musk and Infineon, they said that even though our engineering training level is up to par, there are still areas and skills that require our attention.

"Geely also mentioned that while our engineers are at a good level, they still need specific expertise in the automotive and industrial sectors.

"Following this, we (the government) have asked them to identify specific areas that we lack, so that we can begin training them at local universities.

"I have also conveyed this mes-

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime Minister

sage to the higher education minister and university administrations to provide pathways for this and to focus on exploring these new areas, including specialisation in AI," Anwar said during the Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Datuk Dr Ku Abdul Rahman Ku Ismail (PN-Kubang Pasu), who asked about the government's focus towards developing local talent in high-value sectors.

Meanwhile, Anwar said he was expected to meet Geely in Tan-

jung Malim today, to explore the expansion of the automotive project in the high-tech valley.

He said the meeting with Geely would also refute rumours by certain quarters that the US\$10 billion investment in Malaysia would not be implemented.

"The official visit to China from March 29 to 31 this year generated a potential investment value of RM170.07 billion, including investments from Geely.

"As a follow-up to this, I will be visiting Tanjung Malim tomorrow (today), together with Geely as part of the government's efforts to ensure that the development of the automotive project in the high-tech valley investment can be realised.

"With this, it is important to note that while some say that the project might not be implemented, it happened and other projects such as the completion of Tesla's headquarters in Cyberjaya will follow suit, this month."

Anwar said this in response to Tan Kar Hing (PH-Gopeng) who asked him to state the outcome of overseas visits including investments and cooperation pacts with other countries and the confidence level of foreign investors in Malaysia.