



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mingling with guests at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri feast in Bandar Utama Mosque in Batang Kali, Selangor, yesterday.

BERNAMA PIC

NEW SEMICONDUCTOR POWERHOUSE

INNOVATION, HIGH TECH TO PROPEL GROWTH

PM says high-value investments from global firms will ensure creation of better-paying jobs

ADIB POVERA
AND ZANARIAH ABD MUTALIB
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE unity government is committed to stimulating the country's economic growth through building a new high-technology and innovation-driven future, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said high value investment from global firms would result in the creation of high-paying employment opportunities that would benefit the people in the country.

"I have absolute confidence in the potential of every Malaysian, in the bright prospects for our economy and our shared future as a nation," said Anwar in a posting on his Facebook account yesterday.

The social media posting was accompanied with a Facebook post by the World Economic Forum, which highlighted the country as the new semiconductor powerhouse.

"Malaysia's semiconductor industry is booming. It is centred in

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Penang. Major players from Europe and the United States are setting up shop or expanding their existing operations (here in Malaysia)," stated the caption in the posting

The World Economic Forum, in the same posting, noted that Malaysia had become a destination for firms seeking new options to set-up and expand operations.

"In 2022, Penang attracted US\$12.8 billion in foreign direct investment, which is more than in the previous seven years combined. Intel, for example, has invested US\$7 billion in a new plant in Penang."

In Batang Kali, Anwar said Pakatan Harapan had yet to initiate a discussion on its candidate for the Kuala Kubu Bharu by-election.

"I am here to perform Friday prayers and (to attend the) Hari Raya (Aidilfitri celebration). I have yet to discuss the matter with anyone," he said before praying at the Bandar Utama Mosque.

Anwar, who is also PH chairman, was asked to comment if the coalition had identified its candidates for the by-election.

It was reported that Election Commission (EC) chairman Tan Sri Abdul Ghani Salleh announced that the by-election would be held on May 11.

He also said that the nomination of candidates for the by-election would be held on April 27, while early voting has been fixed on May 7.

The by-election is being held

following the death of its three-term assemblywoman Lee Kee Hiong from DAP.

Perikatan Nasional deputy chairman Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu was quoted as saying that the opposition had identified potential candidates to be fielded for the by-election.

The former Perak menteri besar, however, said PN would only unveil its candidate when the time is right.

He also did not elaborate if the PN candidate would come from Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu), Pas or Gerakan.

"When we field our candidate, the person is representing PN instead of Bersatu, Gerakan and Pas," he said.

Bernama reported that Anwar had arrived at the mosque yesterday at 12.24pm and was welcomed by former Selangor menteri besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, state Housing and Culture Committee chairman Borhan Aman Shah and mosque officials.

Before prayers, Anwar joined the congregation in listening to a sermon on welcoming Syawal.

Earlier, he had lunch with the local community and took time to mingle with officials and congregants at a Hari Raya Aidilfitri feast in the mosque compound.

Present was Selangor police chief Datuk Hussein Omar Khan.

The guests from different backgrounds in their colourful attire added a special touch to the event, making it even more joyful and festive.