

FACTORIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Tesla cancelling plan amid stiff China competition, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR: Stiff competition from Chinese electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers prompted Tesla Inc to cancel its plans to build factories in Southeast Asia, said Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

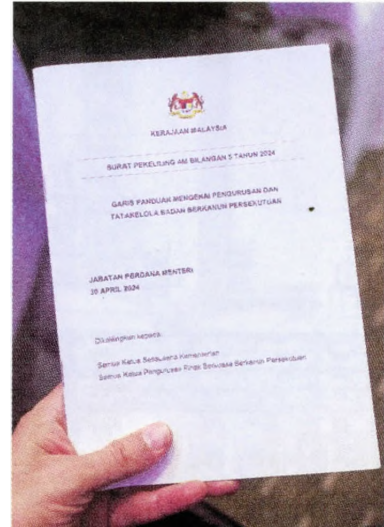
He said the United States carmaker shared this with Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

“Their (Tesla) operations in Thailand are large while we’re just starting,” said Anwar after launch the guidelines on the management and governance of federal statutory bodies yesterday.

On Thursday, Thai online news portal The Nation, citing unnamed sources within the government, claimed that Tesla was cancelling plans to develop factories in Malaysia, Thailand or Indonesia.

The report said Tesla’s current discussions were only focused on efforts related to charging stations.

In an initial response, Zafrul said



The guidelines on the management and governance of federal statutory bodies that was launched yesterday.

Tesla had never committed to opening a factory in Malaysia.

He also downplayed the report, saying it came from unnamed sources and not an official statement from Tesla.

In March last year, Tesla announced plans to open a headquarters in Malaysia, introduce a Tesla Experience Centre and Service Centre, and establish a super-fast charging network in the country.

This followed the ministry’s approval of Tesla’s application to import battery electric vehicles into Malaysia.

