

# PM: MALAYSIA SET TO LEAD IN CYBERSECURITY

Anwar outlines plans to boost national cybersecurity infrastructure

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**M**ALAYSIA is well positioned to emerge as a leader in the field of cybersecurity and is set to make a significant impact during its tenure as Asean chair, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the National Cyber Security Committee fully supported the efforts of the National Cyber Security Agency (Nacsa) to spearhead initiatives aimed at strengthening the nation's cybersecurity, particularly in safeguarding national critical information infrastructure.

In line with Malaysia's Asean chairmanship next year, Anwar said he had been briefed on the 2025 Cyber Defence and Security Exhibition and Conference and the preparation of the new Malaysia Cyber Security Strategy (2025-2030), designed to enhance the country's cybersecurity strategies and initiatives.

"The meeting also agreed that Nacsa will lead the National Cryptography Centre, which will be established at Universiti Putra Malaysia, and will offer opportunities for researchers from other universities to participate," he said on Facebook.

"This centre must be inclusive, involving experts, academics and the private sector, to ensure Malaysia stays ahead in cryptography technology."

Anwar said while the country had no shortage of experts in the field, it must ensure seamless collaboration between the academic sector, industry demands and the priority of maintaining a robust national cybersecurity ecosystem.

He said the meeting also agreed that Malaysia should join the Budapest Convention and the United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime, reinforcing the country's commitment to addressing cybercrime both domestically and internationally.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visiting an exhibition during the Universiti Malaya alumni dinner on Tuesday, NSTP PIC BY AHMAD UKASYAH

"I also expressed my support for the drafting of a new cyber-crime bill to replace the outdated Computer Crimes Act 1997."

Previously, Anwar had said Malaysia's cybersecurity infrastructure was lacking compared with other nations, which prompted the government to introduce new regulations and laws aimed at improving the country's cybersecurity management.

In another development, the prime minister said he had instructed the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry to ensure a significant increase in padi yields by next year.

He said he highlighted the need to improve farmers' incomes while ensuring a stable rice supply for the nation during the Cabinet Committee Meeting on the National Food Security Policy.

In a social media post, he said through proactive strategies and collaboration from all parties, the government would continue to prioritise food security for the benefit and welfare of Malaysians.

In October, Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu had acknowledged the pressing issue of local white rice shortages in the industry.

In response, the ministry took action by consolidating enforcement personnel from various agencies into a single body under the ministry to oversee the agro-food sector.

This came in light of recent floods during the monsoon season, which have caused the loss of potential rice output amounting to 5.3 million 10kg packs.

The ministry has since allocated RM13.23 million in aid to support 6,747 affected rice farmers.

Meanwhile, Anwar has proposed that Universiti Malaya (UM) alumni contribute financially to the university's endowment fund.

As an alumnus himself, he suggested that members who graduated from the university should each donate RM10,000, while other alumni earning more than RM10,000 a month could contribute RM1,000 each.

"If we consolidate all contributions, I believe we can raise up to half a billion for the university's fund," he said during the UM alumni dinner on Tuesday.

Anwar said the suggestion was not intended to shift the government's responsibility, but was a response to the RM1.5 billion debt inherited from the previous administration.

He expressed hope that once the economy improves, more funds could be allocated to the university.

He also called for the efficient management of the endowment fund to ensure its optimal use.

The event was graced by Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, who is also the UM Chancellor. **Additional reporting by Shahrul Shahabudin**