

## REPORT BY NEXT MONTH

# PM wants update on ministries' AI awareness

**SERDANG:** All members of the cabinet have been instructed to submit a report by next month on the progress in increasing awareness and literacy of artificial intelligence (AI) at their ministries, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

This followed the government's target to produce one million AI-literate individuals in the country by year end.

In his speech at the launch of the "AI Untuk Rakyat" programme here yesterday, the prime minister also extended the same challenge to the secretaries-general and directors-general of all ministries.

He also presented the same challenge to all vice-chancellors of public higher learning institutions in the country.

"All secretaries-general, directors-general and vice-chancellors must submit a report, apart from other matters, on what has been done to increase awareness and literacy of AI among their

staff at their ministries and students at their universities.

"Today, we are emphasising on literacy following the launch of the 'AI Untuk Rakyat' programme.

"Therefore, one month from now, I want everyone to submit a report on the progress.

"I would like to also extend the 'challenge' to the members of the cabinet."

AI Untuk Rakyat is a self-learning online programme created to increase understanding and awareness among the public of AI.

The programme, which can be accessed via [www.ai.gov.my](http://www.ai.gov.my), has two modules, namely AI Aware and AI Appreciate.

The programme can be completed within four hours or at an individual's own pace.

"However, let me emphasise something here. While we are accelerating the adoption of AI, digital transformation and energy transition, this Madani govern-

ment will not neglect matters related to good values and identity.

"That is why, on numerous occasions, I always stress the need to 'reach for the sky' but remain rooted to the ground.

"We must continue to uphold our culture, our religion and good values."

Anwar later told reporters that while the government was all for the adoption of AI and advancement of technology, the federal administration would continue with its efforts to eradicate poverty in the country.

"Last year, we managed to reduce poverty in the Federal Territories, Negri Sembilan and some other parts of the country.

"The efforts, however, will not stop there. We will continue with our efforts to eradicate poverty this year as some states have veered slightly from the targets."

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli urged Malaysians to take advantage of the programme to en-



*Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli speaking at the launch of the 'AI Untuk Rakyat' programme at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang yesterday. PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI*

hance their knowledge and understanding of AI technology.

He said a basic understanding of AI technology would open up many opportunities in the country's push for a digitally driven economy.

"By leveraging this opportunity, we can build a future-proof

digital economy and enable Malaysia to generate higher value on the global stage.

"Together, we can collectively build a technologically savvy society to achieve the aspiration of becoming a digitally driven economy by 2030," he said in his speech at the launch.