

PM TO DISCUSS ARAMCO PLAN

Anwar, Petronas to meet this week to discuss Saudi firm's project in Pengerang

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will meet with Petronas this week to discuss the Saudi Aramco project in Pengerang.

The meeting will take place at the Pengerang Integrated Complex in Johor.

Anwar said the world's largest oil and gas company had expressed its commitment to expanding its facilities in Pengerang.

"I will discuss with Petronas within the next one or two days because there are three main issues.

"Two have been resolved, and one has a slight problem that we need to decide at the government level," he said at the monthly assembly of the Finance Ministry here.

In October, Anwar had said that Saudi Aramco was committed to expanding its facilities at the Pengerang Integrated Complex in Johor by adding downstream petrochemical and gas activities to make it the largest hub in Southeast Asia.

Aramco (downstream) president Mohammed Y Al Qahtani said the company was excited about the Pengerang project and was ready to not only maintain operations but also potentially expand them in the future.

Anwar also said he was happy to share good news about Google's potential investment in Malaysia.

He added that it was high time the country elevates itself to help boost foreign investors' confidence in Malaysia, particularly to be more dominant in digital and new technologies.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said he would present on the use of digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in the government at today's cabinet meeting.

"... there are three main issues. Two have been resolved, and one has a slight problem that we need to decide at the government level."

He said this was in line with the government's agreed-upon policy commitments and would indirectly facilitate investor interest in Malaysia.

He said these commitments were also requested by investor companies during his official visits abroad.

"I had lengthy discussions (with investor companies).

"They engaged Mida (the Malaysian Investment Development Authority), Matrade (Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation) and the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry, but then they wanted assurance from me regarding 'third party access' issues like Microsoft and 'cloud computing'.

"I provided explanation, and (talked about) the potential changes in terms of digital technology within the government.

"I said that it is our commitment, we have agreed on the policy, and tomorrow in the cabinet, I will strengthen it."

Anwar said he was confident that Malaysia's economic map and landscape would change for the better if civil servants practised efficiency and carry out their duties promptly.

He said if civil servants focused on these matters, Malaysia would continue to attract global attention in terms of investments.

"So, my friends, focus on this and you will see the economic map... our economic landscape will change. I am confident.

"Civil servants must focus on this matter, while other matters, the political bickering, leave them to me and my colleagues.

"You focus on this because Malaysia has the capability not only in terms of international consideration, but also in terms of investment expectations," he said.