

9 BILLION RIYAL

'Leverage Qatar's plan to revamp digital sector

DOHA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia should leverage Qatar's announcement that it will explore the digital transformation sector by offering 9 billion riyal (about RM11.67 billion) in incentives.

He said Qatar's announcement was in line with Malaysia's focus on the sector, specifically in artificial intelligence (AI).

"One of our focuses is the AI field. We need to take follow-up actions with a focus on education, research and investment aspects," he told the Malaysian media.

Earlier, Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdulrahman Al-Thani announced at the Qatar Economic Forum that Qatar was striving for economic diversification and moving towards nationwide digital transformation.

He said the Qatari government realised the importance of information technology transformation, including in AI.

He said the United States was a traditional market for Qatar, but Asia was an attractive prospect and the country was exploring emerging markets in Central Asia and Africa.

During the "Conversations With the Prime Minister of Malaysia" session, Anwar said digital transformation, energy transition and AI would help propel the nation forward.

He said Malaysia's firm foreign policy stance would not jeopardise its investment potential, which was through continued flow of investments into the country, including from the US.

"I think it is obvious that we have a strong relationship with China. I personally do not accept xenophobia and we are traditional partners.

"Investments continue to flow. From the United States, Microsoft and Google. They are aggressive and we welcome them.

"Malaysia is known for semiconductors in that region. There must be a reason. And it is partly because of support from the US.

"It's true we have differences in opinion in some policies, but as a whole, we are still friends."

Present at the session were Al-Thani and Polish President Andrzej Duda.