

Anwar calls for a unified response

PM wants global reaction to current defence and security-related challenges

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for a global unified response in facing an increasingly fragmented global landscape that threatens collective security and prosperity.

The Prime Minister reiterated that Malaysia would continue to observe the principle of neutrality in its relations, specifically within Asean, the West, China, Africa, Latin America and the rest of the world.

"These escalating threats are pushing the world towards an unprecedented turning point, demanding a unified response," he said in his speech at the opening of the 18th Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security Exhibition (Natsec) Asia 2024 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (Mitec) here yesterday.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and other top government officials.

The Prime Minister said the digital realm, which he dubbed as the "second reality", faced relentless cyberattacks that threaten to compromise sensitive data, undermining security and the trust "upon which our societies and economies stand".

"Our theme, 'Building Resilient Nations for the Next Generation', challenges us to look beyond our own horizons and innovate in ways that fortify our nations against



multifaceted threats.

"It is a clarion call to lay groundwork for a better world where tomorrow's generations can thrive in peace, safeguarded by the robust and strategic partnerships we cultivate today," Anwar said.

In the coming days, he said there would be a tremendous opportunity for crucial dialogue among nations, defence sectors and security industries.

"We convene, not just as representatives of our nations, but as partners in a collective endeavour to address the pressing defence and security-related challenges of our time," he added.

Anwar also said that environmental concerns and the scarcity of resources exacerbate further tensions.

"Climate change is also not a distant threat but a present crisis, impacting food

security, causing natural disasters and displacing communities.

"As societies wobble under these pressures, the spectre of crumbling economies looms large, undermining the prospects of future prosperity," he warned.

Anwar said in light of these issues, it was clear that all of the current challenges were not isolated, but interconnected elements of a broader global crisis.

"This demands collective response and strategy, and it is here that DSA and Natsec 2024 shine as a beacon of hope," he said.

He also urged all participants to come together to share their knowledge, and to innovate and exchange new technologies and ideas, as well as to forge new partnerships.

"I believe that the events and deliberations over the next three days will serve as a catalyst for positive change, towards a secure future for us and the generations to follow.

"Together, we can build a resilient world - a testament to the strength found in unity," Anwar said.

Closer look:

Anwar visiting the exhibition at Mitec in Kuala Lumpur.
- FAIHAN GHANI/The Star