

# Remove barriers to clinical research, says PM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia should seize opportunities, endeavour to advance reforms and remove barriers to clinical research, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said this must be reflected in the ease of doing business by improving timelines and cutting down unnecessary bureaucratic processes, while maintaining quality and standards.

"Investment opportunities for the clinical research industry must be facilitated, and regulations and policies updated to remain relevant with current market needs.

"The government recognises the value proposition of making this country a global clinical trial hub, as well as its qualitative contribution to healthcare."

He was speaking at the opening

> Investment opportunities in field must be facilitated, regulations and policies updated to remain relevant with current market needs'

of the Clinical Research Malaysia Trial Connect Conference 2024 yesterday.

The text of his speech was read by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

Anwar said the government values the investments made and continuously strives to provide value-added benefits for investors in the clinical research industry, Bernama reported.

"The global clinical trial market was valued at over US\$80 billion (RM380 bilion) in 2023, with a

projected growth of 6.5% annually.

"Half of this is now very much focused within the Asia-Pacific region, especially in China, South Korea, Japan and Australia.

"I believe the Southeast Asian nations are sleeping giants because as a whole, it is one of the most diverse locations with a skilled workforce and supportive infrastructure."

He said as the clinical research industry grows, supporting services such as contract research organisations,

laboratories, manufacturing plants and logistic services would see expansion as well.

"This is where more skilled workforce is created to support the industry's needs. We have already observed this in Parexel Malaysia, where its data management centre was set up to support the region.

"Additionally, the establishment of Hematogenix - a central oncology laboratory with Malaysia being one of only four global locations - has contributed to the employment of scientists and bioinformaticians in the country."

He said the socio-economic value brought about by clinical research was impactful, with over 2,700 skilled jobs recorded in the field last year.