

PM: MALAYSIA AIMS TO BE GENERATIVE AI HUB

Key goals over 12 months include completing AI Tech Action Plan

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Malaysia aims to position itself as a hub for generative artificial intelligence and has outlined key goals for the next 12 months, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The prime minister said the Madani government had launched the AI Talent Roadmap for Malaysia (2024-2030) and the Malaysia Artificial Intelligence Consortium (MAIC) as part of its efforts to drive AI leadership in the country.

"We want Malaysia to succeed. We believe Malaysian companies and civil society can absorb this and make our nation a successful, vibrant economy and, hopefully, the best in the region," he said at the "Mantap Malaysia Bersama AI" event hosted by Google.

While the country has taken steps related to AI, he said, it could not be denied that these initiatives were introduced after a series of discussions with the industry, including Google.

Anwar said Google's collaborative role in giving the necessary input was based on its experience in other countries.

Anwar said to position Malaysia as a competitive player in the global AI landscape, the government was establishing the National Artificial Intelligence Office to coordinate all AI-related initiatives.

"*Insyallah*, in the next 12 months, we aim to achieve several key outcomes, including completing the AI Technology Action Plan (2026-2030).

"Twelve months, according to the minister. However, there is no reason to wait for 12 months when it can be completed within six months... otherwise, an adjustment to the cabinet," he said in jest.

Anwar said the government also aimed to establish a regulatory framework to increase the adop-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the 'Mantap Malaysia Bersama AI' event in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

tion of ethical and sustainable AI technology, and to expediting AI adoption in key sectors.

He said by leveraging partnerships with industry leaders and fostering collaborations among stakeholders, Malaysia could emerge as a leading AI-driven nation in Asean.

"To fully harness technology's potential for economic growth, strategic policy interventions are necessary. Digital transformation is central to our economic plans, including the New Industrial Master Plan 2030."

Anwar said positioning Malaysia as a hub for generative AI would require substantial investments from technology partners to develop a secure and robust digital infrastructure.

The Digital Ministry had been tasked with leading the country's digital transformation efforts, he added. Highlighting the benefits of AI in public service, Anwar pointed to the Education Ministry's DELIMA platform, powered by Google's cloud technology, which serves 5.5 million students and teachers.

He called for similar technological advancements across government agencies to optimise processes, reduce costs and improve service delivery.

As Malaysia prepares to assume the Asean chairmanship next year, Anwar said, the country would advocate for progressive digital policies that encouraged technological advancement and foster cross-border collaboration within the region.

At a separate event, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said Malaysia was set to shine as a technological innovation hub for Asean.

He said by fostering a culture of

creativity and entrepreneurship, engineers could be empowered to develop solutions that were not only locally relevant but also globally competitive.

"Currently, Malaysia has around 200,000 engineers, with universities producing about 15,000 new engineers each year. We need engineers who can not only design and construct infrastructure, but also those who can tackle problems, addressing both national and global challenges," he said at the Board of Engineers Malaysia convention.

Highlighting green energy as a critical focus area for engineers, Fadillah said: "As we transition to green energy, we require engineers to contribute to sustainable solutions for our environment."

He said there was a need for collaboration among various stakeholders, including the government, academia, industry practitioners, non-governmental organisations and the private sector, to establish Malaysia as a centre for engineering excellence.

"If we can cultivate partnerships among these stakeholders, *Insyallah*, we can position Malaysia as a hub for engineering development."

Earlier, Fadillah attended the signing of a memorandum of understanding on electronic bulk registration for university students with the BEM.

The e-bulk registration system serves as an online platform designed for engineering graduates, providing them with opportunities to apply their skills and gain professional experience.

This initiative ensures that their practical experience is recognised and endorsed by the BEM.