

'ENSURE MALAYSIA NOT LEFT BEHIND'

Need to further enhance infrastructure and improve training, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants Malaysia's logistics ecosystem to be further strengthened, stressing the need for not only enhanced infrastructure but also improved skill development among workers in the sector.

He said the government's current focus was on industrialisation, digitalisation, energy transition and semiconductors, which required top-notch logistics ecosystem facilities and services.

He added that investors would look at the capability of the overall ecosystem.

Therefore, he wants the Transport Ministry, Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB), the Customs Depart-

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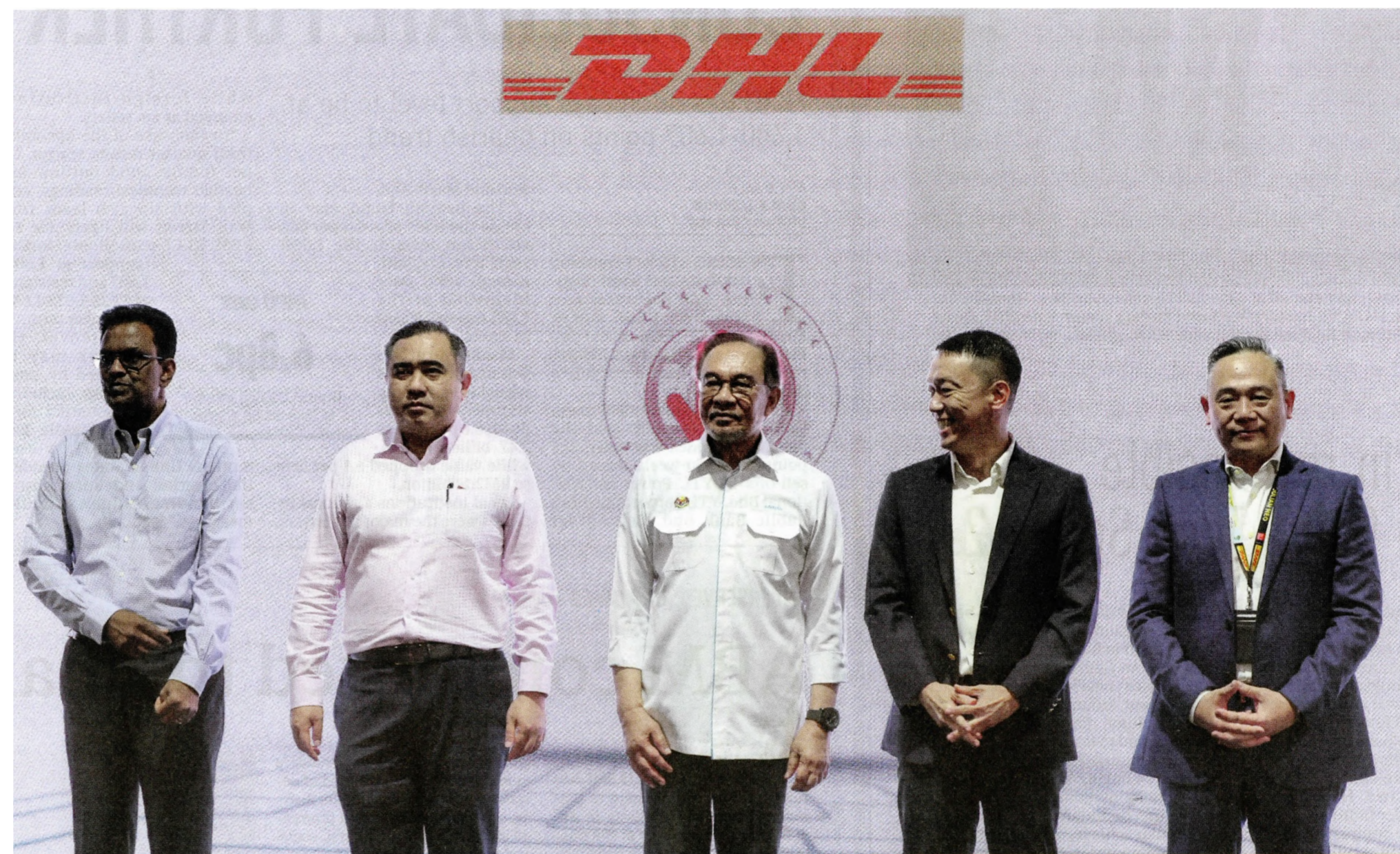
DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime Minister

ment, the Immigration Department and logistics-related companies to pay greater attention to the rapid pace of change as any slowdown in national mechanisms "will leave Malaysia behind".

"When we talk about the logistics ecosystem, it includes all our partners. The ecosystem is expanding, not only in terms of infrastructure but also training," he said at the launch of DHL Express's Kuala Lumpur Gateway yesterday.

Anwar urged DHL Express to pay special attention to enhancing worker skills through a centre of excellence, with the training provided to go beyond basic skills.

"Skill enhancement is essential as we are now focusing on automation,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) officiating at the launch of DHL Express Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Gateway at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport Air Cargo Terminal yesterday. With him are (from left) Transport Ministry secretary-general Datuk Jana Santhiran Miniayan, Minister Anthony Loke, DHL Express (Asia Pacific) chief executive officer Ken Lee and DHL Express (Malaysia and Brunei) managing director Julian Neo. BERNAMA PIC

digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI). I believe that DHL, as a major company, can empower young people in this field," he said.

Also present at the launch were Transport Minister Anthony Loke, the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Jana Santhiran Miniayan, DHL Express (Asia Pacific) chief executive officer Ken Lee and DHL Express (Malaysia and Brunei) managing director Julian Neo.

Meanwhile, Loke said Malaysia jumped 15 places in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index to 26th last year.

This, he said, attested to the vibrancy of the country's courier services sector, which was witnessing positive momentum and had the drivers for long-term growth in place.

"The expansion of the Kuala Lumpur Gateway is a vote of confidence

and helps to reinforce our country's role as a critical node in global supply chains," he said.

Lee said the company was on track to strengthen its network in robust economies.

"We see rapidly rising cargo volumes in Malaysia, which also shows massive potential for a sustained uptrend, as the country emerges as a preferred omni-sourcing destination.

"The Kuala Lumpur Gateway enables our customers to better leverage import and export opportunities, especially via the facility's busiest trade lanes, including the United States, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom," he said.

Spanning 13,422 sqm, the enhanced Kuala Lumpur Gateway is three times the size of the previous premises.

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ANTHONY LOKE
Transport Minister

'GOOD RELATIONSHIP'

Trade flow with US to continue, says Loke

SEPANG: Malaysia has a good relationship with the United States and expects a continued flow of trade with the world's top economy, said Transport Minister Anthony Loke.

"We hope trade between Malaysia and the US will continue. We have received a lot of investments from US companies," he said at the sidelines of the opening ceremony for the new DHL Express Kuala Lumpur Gateway here today.

"However, we are also look-

ing to expand our regional trade, especially with other Asean markets."

Furthermore, Loke said Malaysia remained a competitive location for becoming a logistics hub.

Meanwhile, on whether Malaysia was concerned that US restrictions will include semiconductor products, Loke said the Investment, Trade and Industry would take steps to ensure that domestic companies were not affected.