

# TOTAL APPROVED INVESTMENTS SURGE 18pc TO RM160b

The nearly 3,000 new projects will create 79,000 jobs, says Anwar

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**T**HE total approved investments in the first six months of the year surged 18 per cent to RM160 billion from a year ago.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the rise in investment was a result of concerted efforts by the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry, the Finance Ministry and related government agencies.

"The economy grew 4.2 per cent in the first quarter and 5.9 per cent in the second quarter, exceeding initial projections.

"I would like to announce that the amount of investments approved in the period of January to June jumped to RM160 billion,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at Khazanah Nasional Bhd's 30th anniversary celebration yesterday. PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

an impressive increase of 18 per cent compared with the same period last year," he said at Khazanah Nasional Bhd's 30th anniversary celebration yesterday.

"These investments involved nearly 3,000 new projects that will open more than 79,000 job opportunities for Malaysians."

Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said the country's approved investment growth for this year should at least match its annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

Last year's approved investments totalled RM329.5 billion,

up 23 per cent from RM267.7 billion in 2022.

Of the total, 57.2 per cent came from foreign capital and 42.8 per cent from domestic investments.

The official GDP growth forecast for this year is between 4.0 per cent and 5.0 per cent.