



*The Seremban southbound rest and service area is located at Km274.6 between the Nilai Interchange and Bandar Ainsdale Interchange on the North-South Expressway. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD*

## 'Sustainable highway RSA a crucial milestone'

**SEREMBAN:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday officiated at the Seremban southbound rest and service (RSA) area on the North-South Expressway. It marked the country's first sustainable rest area on the highway.

Anwar said the development of this first sustainable RSA was a significant step towards prioritising facilities that benefited the people.

"I have travelled on this highway for decades, and I have never seen an RSA as impressive and sustainable as this.

"The people of Seremban and Negeri Sembilan are fortunate to have such a facility. It is a great start for both traders and the community," he said.

"This marks a crucial milestone for our country — balancing development with addressing the needs of the grassroots.

"This RSA features the best surau, incorporating natural ventilation, solar energy and water conservation. I extend my grat-

itude for this outstanding initiative," he added.

"This facility is unique to Seremban. If we are committed to innovation and sustainability, we can elevate our country to greater heights."

Anwar said the sustainable features of the RSA, such as the use of solar energy and rainwater harvesting systems, should set a precedent for all highways and could be expanded to other RSA areas.

"What is notable is the use of solar energy and rainwater for facilities like bathrooms and toilets. The Seremban southbound RSA should be a model for all highways in Malaysia and an example to follow."

Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi expressed strong support for the sustainable RSA concept and hoped for its broader implementation.

"I encourage highway concessionaires to collaborate on expanding this concept as it en-

hances public comfort," he said.

The redevelopment of the Seremban southbound RSA area, located at Km274.6 between the Nilai Interchange and Bandar Ainsdale Interchange, represents a significant investment of RM45 million aimed at meeting the growing needs of highway users and prioritising sustainable infrastructure development.

This newly redesigned RSA has achieved Green Building Index Gold Rating certification and incorporates sustainable building materials. It is the first in the country to feature green technology such as solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations, rainwater harvesting systems, waste composting machines, fabric recycling bins and biodegradable packaging containers.

The RSA also boasts a food court nearly eight times larger than the original, able to accommodate more than 500 visitors. The surau has been redesigned with space for up to 150 men and 150 women. **Bernama**