

'Private sector should help boost AI training'

ISKANDAR PUTERI: The private sector must play a key role in developing artificial intelligence (AI) education in Malaysia, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the private sector's involvement in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) could also serve as a model for collaboration in AI education.

Anwar said partnerships between the government and major corporations, including banking institutions and conglomerates, were crucial to ensure that AI programmes meet the nation's future needs.

"Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has strengthened TVET, but we cannot rely solely on outdated TVET syllabi.

"Private sector cooperation would further boost its efficiency, especially in AI and technical

training," he said at the Invest Malaysia Iskandar Puteri 2024 conference at Sunway Hotel Big Box here yesterday.

Anwar stressed the importance of collaboration between entities such as Khazanah Nasional, Bursa Malaysia and major corporations to produce a skilled workforce equipped to handle AI technologies.

"I believe AI technical training will be more effective with private sector involvement compared with traditional education programmes," he said.

The conference, hosted by Bursa Malaysia and co-hosted by Maybank, CIMB Securities and HSBC Malaysia, focused on Iskandar Puteri as Malaysia's southern economic gateway.

Themed "Where Policy Meets Progress", it saw the participation of 500 local and foreign delegates.

The conference highlighted

key developments, particularly on the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JSSEZ), and offered insights into Malaysia's macroeconomic landscape, particularly Johor's market prospects.

Present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Bursa Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar and Johor's Economic Investment adviser, Datuk Seri Hasni Mohammad.

Bursa Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Muhammad Umar Swift said the Invest Malaysia-Iskandar conference covered a range of topics, including data centre investments, Johor's property market and the JSSEZ's potential impact on regional development.

The conference marked its fifth edition of the 2024 series, following conferences in Melbourne, China, Singapore and Hong Kong.