

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

PM: Policy reforms essential to attract investors

KUALA LUMPUR: Policy reforms related to development programmes must be intensified to boost investor confidence and solidify Malaysia's status as a premier investment destination.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said this at the groundbreaking of the Kerian Integrated Green Industrial Park (KIGIP) in Perak yesterday.

Anwar emphasised the importance of adapting to contemporary demands, noting that Malaysia was embracing cutting-edge technology in projects like KIGIP, the nation's first green and smart industrial park.

"With its strategic location, this project is designed to attract technology-driven and viable investments, such as logistics data centres and knowledge-based industries," he said in a Facebook post.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, expressed confidence that with collective effort from all stakeholders, KIGIP would complement industrial demands of Penang and the Kulim High Tech Park.

Anwar hoped it would serve as a regional model for industrial estate development and green technology hubs.

He said the development of KIGIP in Kerian, one of the largest industrial projects in the country, demonstrated the government's trust in the capabilities and efficiency of Bumiputera companies.

He added that the mega project was fully managed by Permodalan Nasional Bhd through SD Guthrie Bhd.

It is also anticipated to make history as the first high-tech industrial project in Southeast Asia to utilise green energy.

Anwar said he wished for the 404.6ha project to be expedited while ensuring that the ecosys-

tem and supply chain associated with it are swiftly streamlined.

"I chose to personally visit the KIGIP site twice consecutively, and I believe that I may visit (it) again soon to inspect the project's progress.

"If there is land subsidence, I say, to level it by next week. We can even arrange for a fast-track tender.

"I want to monitor this because I want KIGIP to be a source of pride for us, a project that Bumiputera can be proud of, as well as a source of pride for Malaysians, and a great example for the Southeast Asian region."

Anwar added that he wanted the approval process to attract foreign investments and development projects for the benefit of the people to be expedited.

He said the government's ability to provide infrastructure was one of the key factors that potential investors considered when deciding to invest in the country.

He said rather than comparing the government's performance with that achieved in previous years, the government should also compare the country's performance with other nations to evaluate its progress.