

CONSORTIUM INITIATIVE

'PM wants only capable Bumi firms

in GEMA'

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed hope that only capable contractors will be chosen to join the business consortia under the Gerakan Ekonomi Madani (GEMA) initiative.

Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (DPMM) president Norsyahrin Hamidon said this was Anwar's message to the association, which he said had been tasked with ensuring the end of middlemen, or "Ali Baba", arrangements.

He said this would ensure that Bumiputeras increased their contribution to the gross domestic product to 15 per cent by 2025 from the current 8.1 per cent.

"The prime minister told me to make sure contractors we select are truly involved in the field they are applying for. We don't want Ali Baba arrangements. It's a different problem now.

"During a walkabout in Kuala Lumpur, we found that foreign traders are dominating some business sectors."

Norsyahrin said this at a press conference after the GEMA Hari Raya celebration at the World Trade Centre yesterday, which Anwar attended.

GEMA is an initiative by DPMM to make Malay entrepreneurs competitiveness locally and internationally.

Norsyahrin said GEMA, which currently had one consortium, hoped to establish 10 consortia in different fields, such as agriculture and artificial intelligence.

He said this could bring all Malay entrepreneurs, whether small businesses, limited companies or larger corporations, to bid for government or large-scale projects.

"By gathering key players in an industry, the consortium can be more powerful, pooling funds and expertise to tackle larger projects. Without these consortia, entrepreneurs will miss out on the valuable experience of executing such projects."

Norsyahrin said DPMM had established a solar consortium of 20 companies and it had secured a project to instal solar stations at Petronas petrol stations nationwide.