

Prioritise TVET, STEM to build domestic economic resilience, says Anwar

KANGAR: Efforts to improve the capacity of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and mastery of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) among youth are needed to build the domestic economic resilience of Malaysia, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the fields of engineering, artificial intelligence and digital, as well as approaches to keep up with current economic developments, must be prioritised to enable Malaysia to have the ability to achieve this goal.

"We will build domestic economic resilience, enter the fields of engineering, AI and digital as well as focus on economic development. We will not be dragged into issues that can break and weaken us, such as listening to quarrelsome talks which spew hatred.

"We have the strength to build this country. In 10 years, 20 years, where do we want to take the people and children? Think about the future. Do we want to quarrel about race or interpretation, or raise our dignity so that together we can become part of a developed country and be strong to face current tests?"

Anwar was speaking at the Perlis state-level Aidilfitri Madani 2025 celebration at Dataran Lok 9, Kuala Perlis on Sunday.

Also present were the Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail, the Raja Perempuan of Perlis Tuanku Tengku Fauziah Almarhum Tengku Abdul Rashid, the Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail and the Raja Puan Muda of Perlis Tuanku Dr Hajah Lailatul Shahreen Akashah Khalil.

Perlis Menteri Besar Mohd Shukri Ramli and

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail were also present.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, announced that the development allocation channelled by the federal government to Perlis increased to RM645.58 million last year from RM596.82 million in 2023.

On the Basic Rahmah Contribution programme in Perlis, he said its beneficiaries had increased to 62,292 people as of April compared with 25,682 last year.

Earlier, Anwar chaired a special state development meeting with Mohd Shukri and state and federal government leaders at the Perlis State Development Office.

Anwar said in a post on his Facebook page that the government machinery at all levels must immediately expedite the approval and

implementation of projects without being hampered by bureaucratic red tape.

"I have instructed agencies to tighten monitoring of projects and not hesitate to punish those who delay them to the detriment of the people."

Anwar said among the projects raised were the development of Sanglang port, the reconstruction of Sekolah Kebangsaan Chuping, the completion of the abandoned Sekolah Sukan Malaysia Perlis and Chuping flood reservoir upgrading.

He said he had ordered the reconstruction of Sekolah Kebangsaan Chuping to commence this year, while the Sekolah Sukan Malaysia Perlis project, abandoned for the past 12 years, must be immediately handed over to a capable government company. - Bernama