



Anwar visiting a booth after officiating at the summit in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.
-AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

Homegrown multimodal language modal unveiled

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has unveiled its first 100% locally-developed multimodal large language model, *Intelek Luhur Malaysia Untukmu*, in a landmark step towards becoming an "AI nation" for all, not just the privileged few.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launched the model yesterday at the inaugural Asean AI Malaysia Summit 2025, announcing that it would be available for early access from Sept 16 via ILMUchat.

"This is a generational opportunity. If we approach this moment with foresight and courage, AI can bridge development divides, empower small businesses, uplift rural communities, strengthen public services and expand access to healthcare, education and justice for all."

Developed entirely in Malaysia by YTL AI Labs in collaboration with Universiti Malaya, it blends

local intelligence and languages with world-class performance to meet national needs.

Intelek Luhur Malaysia Untukmu is culturally attuned, fluent in Bahasa Melayu, Malaysian English and dialects such as Kelate, and built with national interests, safety and data governance in mind.

Powered by YTL AI Cloud for enterprise-grade performance and local data residency, it matches or outperforms GPT-4o, DeepSeek and Llama 3.1 in major benchmarks and leads globally in Malay language comprehension.

It is also capable of processing and generating text, voice and images, offering real-world applications across industries.

Anwar said AI development in Asean must be inclusive, ethical and anchored in shared values, guided by the principle that technology should enhance equity and preserve cultural identity.

"Our vision is not just to harness AI to catch up with the rest of the world, but to lead in some areas, protect our values and give meaning to

the principle of equity and justice."

He called on traditional religious institutions, once pivotal in resisting colonialism, to help shape the ethical use of AI in the digital age.

"At a recent meeting with religious scholars in Kelantan, I urged them to embrace new knowledge and digital literacy without compromising faith and moral values. By defending our traditions and values, we are not disrupting, we are protecting."

Anwar warned that without deliberate efforts to ensure equitable access, AI could deepen inequality within and between nations.

"We are now facing a new kind of challenge. If we don't address it, a gap will emerge between those with knowledge of new disciplines and those without, leaving the latter unable to improve their quality of life.

"This is the reality of the digital divide. Some of us are fortunate to be exposed to technology while others, especially in rural areas, are completely cut off."