

A VITAL PILLAR

ANWAR: MEDIA A GUARDIAN OF INTEGRITY

It plays an indispensable role in nurturing cohesive communities, says PM

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THE media is a vital pillar of public life and a partner in promoting good governance and social harmony, the prime minister said yesterday.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said it was also a guardian of integrity and a bridge between cultures.

"It plays an indispensable role in nurturing informed and cohesive communities.

"In advancing the Malaysia Madani vision, the media is a partner in promoting good governance, transparency, the sharing of knowledge and social harmony."

He said this while delivering a recorded address at the opening of the 58th Annual Conference

of the World Chinese Language Press Institute at the Lin Xiang Xiong Art Gallery here.

The conference was opened by Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

Also present was Entrepreneur Development and Co-operatives Minister Steven Sim.

Anwar also said this year's focus on media innovation in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) was especially timely.

"AI is reshaping how information is created and shared.

"It offers opportunities to boost efficiency and reduce costs, while also requiring deeper reflection on ethics, responsibility and the evolving role of Chinese-language media in a rapidly changing technological landscape."

Anwar said in the age of big data, generative AI and borderless communication, the world



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim delivering a recorded address at the opening of the 58th Annual Conference of the World Chinese Language Press Institute at the Lin Xiang Xiong Art Gallery in George Town yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

needed responsible journalism, narratives that would elevate our shared humanity and a deeper commitment to truth, fairness and dignity.

"Malaysia stands ready to work with Chinese-language media worldwide to strengthen regional information linkages, deepen cultural understanding and contribute towards a more enlightened global community."

The two-day event was hosted

by the 115-year-old Penang-based Chinese daily, *Kwong Wah Yit Poh*, and attended by more than 80 media practitioners from Malaysia, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Indonesia, Singapore, Canada and the Philippines.

Anwar further said that with more than 100 member organisations, the institute stood today as a respected and influential voice for the global Chinese press.

The prime minister also recognised the legacy of *Kwong Wah Yit Poh*.

He said as one of the oldest surviving Chinese newspapers in the world, it had endured colonial rule, periods of conflict, the transition to self-governance and now the digital age.

The newspaper's century-old history reflected resilience, principled journalism and a steadfast commitment to clarity and conscience, he added.