

Strike balance between technology heritage: Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR: Mastery of new technologies must go hand in hand with preserving national identity and cultural heritage, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

Speaking at the Seri Negara Conservation completion ceremony, Anwar said restoring the heritage building was not just about conservation but reaffirming the meaning of independence and national identity for younger generations.

Once a symbol of colonial grandeur, Seri Negara – taken over by

the government in 1982 – should now serve as an inclusive space for all Malaysians, rather than being an exclusive domain for elites.

"These historic buildings becoming preferred spaces for the ruling elite is not wrong, but ordinary citizens must also enjoy them.

"Seri Negara belongs to the entire nation, reflecting its narratives, history, arts, culture and literature, in line with Madani principles of inclusivity," he said.

Anwar stressed that high-investment development can coexist

with historical preservation, rejecting the idea that economic progress must erode heritage.

He urged this approach to serve as a model nationwide, through collaboration between government agencies, local authorities and the corporate sector, to ensure cities remain culturally rich, sustainable and people-centred.

The government's Kuala Lumpur Heritage Project (Warisan KL) aims to conserve historic assets as economic and community drivers.

Warisan KL is projected to

generate RM7.85 billion by 2035, covering sites such as Dataran Merdeka, Seri Negara, Merdeka 118, the Tun Abdul Razak Memorial and Kuala Lumpur Railway Station.

Khazanah is tasked with conserving eight heritage buildings, including Seri Negara and Carcosa, and constructing a new bridge linking them to the Perdana Botanical Gardens. Built in 1896 by first British resident-general Sir Frank Swettenham, Seri Negara was his official residence from 1904.

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