

TRANSFORMATION

MOVE PAST PETTY ISSUES, SAYS ANWAR

PM says Malaysia should instead make rapid progress in tech, AI and digitalisation

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Malaysia must move past its preoccupation with trivial matters and petty conflicts if it is to go through rapid transformation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia needed to learn from other nations in developing its technology, artificial intelligence and digitalisation sectors.

"Other nations, such as China, Japan, the United States, and those in Europe, are making significant progress in technology, artificial intelligence and digitalisation.

"They are discussing how their countries can undergo rapid transformation through energy transition and reduce their dependence on traditional energy sources.

"Yet, we remain distracted by trivial matters and petty conflicts.

"This is why it is the responsibility of all of us, including the private sector, to work together towards progress.

"Otherwise, we will lack the strength to move forward."

Anwar said this in his keynote address at the launch of the Alamanda Shopping Centre redevelopment yesterday.

Present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

On Saturday, Anwar said Malaysia and France had agreed to boost cooperation in the fields of defence, economy and energy, in addition to trade, investment, tourism and AI.

He had said the matter was brought up during a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron, in which they also discussed developments stemming from their meeting during the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Nov 19.

Meanwhile, Anwar said Malaysia should emulate Bahrain's strategy in fostering economic development and improving infrastructure.

He added that Bahrain's focus on boosting its economy had helped the country stand out globally, despite not being widely recognised as a financial hub.

"Bahrain is not known as a financial hub, a major trading centre or an attractive investment destination, but it stands out due to its strong focus and strategic direction," he said.

Anwar was in Bahrain recently on the invitation of its prime minister and crown prince, Sheikh Salman Hamad Al Khalifa.

He had also been granted an audience with King Hamad Isa Al Khalifa, and met with its Finance and Economy Minister Shaikh Salman

Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Anwar urged all parties to take responsibility for the country's development by focusing on larger agendas, including strengthening unity to ensure Malaysia remained progressive and respected on the global stage.

He added that while there were disagreements on certain matters, it was important to have tolerance towards each other, considering Malaysia's diversity.

"When I maintain good relations with Christians, Hindus or Buddhists, it does not mean that I am compromising my faith.

"I remain steadfast in my beliefs, religious practices, nightly prayers and recitation of the Quran.

"However, I set an example of how Muslims can live peacefully and respectfully with others.

"As taught in Islam, we must uphold mutual respect and recognise differences."

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