

M'sia to maintain its policy of non-alignment: PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's position is clear on remaining non-aligned, and will not be drawn into great power rivalries, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Malaysia rejects economic coercion and unilateral actions that undermine regional stability.

"We support a rules-based multilateral system that ensures fairness, transparency and representation for all, particularly for the Global South," he said in his keynote address at the China Conference: Southeast Asia 2025 yesterday.

He added that Asean's major foreign policy thrust is the principle of centrality to ensure it remains fiercely independent and thus able to engage with all countries, including traditional partners in the West and the new emerging force, particularly China in the east together with other countries in Asia.

Anwar said Asean must move beyond traditional trade and investment figures and focus on a partnership that is transformational and future-oriented.

"We must lead. Our success depends on how

well we integrate new technologies, develop robust economic frameworks and secure a more equitable and sustainable future for all."

He said China has been Asean's most significant economic partner for years, and this relationship would continue to be a cornerstone of regional stability.

"However, as global economic dynamics evolve, our engagement must also adapt to new challenges and opportunities."

Anwar said the next phase of Asean-China economic cooperation must be driven by strategic technological collaboration, sustainable growth and human capital development.

"We must embrace and support the integration of artificial intelligence into regional supply chains, ensuring that Asean remains at the forefront of the digital economy."

He said expanding cooperation in renewable energy, green industries and sustainable infrastructure is vital to fostering long-term resilience and environmental responsibility.

"Equally important is the empowerment of

Asean's workforce, equipping our people with the necessary skills to navigate and thrive in an evolving digital landscape."

He added that Asean's connectivity with China must extend beyond enhancing trade efficiency as it must drive shared prosperity.

Meanwhile in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Anwar said Petronas has spent over RM600 million on various education and human capital development initiatives in Sarawak over the past 10 years.

He said 680,000 Sarawakians have benefitted from scholarships and training programmes for educators while 4,300 individuals have secured employment with Petronas, Bernama reported.

"It should be remembered that the significant revenue generated over the years has allowed us to establish Petronas as the country's primary financial resource from the early days of nation-building contributing to economic growth and national development.

"All this is thanks to Sarawak the Land of the Hombills, and the strong cooperation between the state and federal governments. That is why we have opted to provide some adjustments and recognition to the role of Petros (Petroleum Sarawak Berhad) in driving Sarawak's economic growth."

He was speaking during the prime minister's information session on petroleum activities in Sarawak involving Petronas and Petros.