

'Legislation must keep pace with tech advancements'

> Reforms needed to foster opportunities for collaboration to face challenges posed by global developments: PM

DAVOS (SWITZERLAND): Malaysia cannot rely on outdated legislation to address the challenges posed by rapid technological advancements and must pursue reforms to foster greater opportunities for international collaboration, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

During a media briefing titled "Unlocking Asean's Digital Future: Driving Inclusive Growth and Global Competitiveness" at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual summit 2025, he underscored the government's commitment to ensuring that legislation keeps pace with global developments.

"We take all the latest pieces of legislation from all over the world and adjust (them) accordingly and push through.

"Fortunately, we have a two-thirds majority in Parliament. That helps immensely because people will see the array of things that we need to do to give meaning to effective collaboration, clarity of policies and fast-paced implementation," said Anwar, who is also finance minister.

The 30-minute session was moderated by WEF head of media development and planning Dai Di.

Other speakers included Bain & Company worldwide managing partner Christophe De Vusser and WEF Asia-Pacific head of regional agenda Joo-Ok Lee.

On unlocking Asean's full potential, Anwar said all member leaders must continue to craft the correct policies, especially regarding rapidly advancing new technology.

"As for the collaboration, as far as I'm concerned, it must (begin with) humility to acknowledge that these new technologies are challenging. We don't have all the answers, and therefore, the collaboration must begin with the key players, including companies and the states."

He said the task is not to impose prescriptions but to gather all the necessary inputs to determine what needs to be done, including fostering an ecosystem encompassing airports, ports, infrastructure, centres of excellence, research and

partnerships with universities.

He added that collaboration among Asean leaders must extend to the private sector, as technological progress demands that governments and ruling elites recognise their limitations and adopt a cooperative approach to succeed.

Anwar said the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the country's healthcare system would not only boost efficiency but also help reduce waste.

He said his top priorities since assuming office and taking on the finance portfolio have consistently been education and healthcare, Bernama reported.

"I think it is grossly unjust, in my political philosophy, to deny the vast majority (of people) (access to) the best health facilities, and of course, the basic infrastructure in hospitals, and AI plays a critical role in it.

Anwar is on a three-day working visit to attend the summit. This marks his first participation in the WEF since assuming office in 2022.

Themed "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age" the high-level summit, which runs until tomorrow, will deal with the role and contribution of emerging technologies and the latest innovations in addressing global economic issues, among other topics.