

# 'We need laws to protect local works from AI'

**SHAH ALAM:** The Digital Ministry and Communications Ministry must draft legislation to protect the copyright of local creative works online, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

This is crucial as the country navigates challenges arising from the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI), he said.

"The protection must not only apply to cartoonists, but also to films, poetry and other works."

He said legal provisions were needed to ensure the country's creative works did not follow the mould set by others, only to lose its identity, values and virtues.

Anwar said this in his speech at

the launch of the book *Melukis Dengan Hati: Biografi Perjalanan Seni 50 Tahun* by political cartoonist Zulkiflee S.M. Anwar Uhaque, better known as Zunar, here yesterday.

He said ethical and cultural considerations and values must be central to the nation's AI policy.

"In our national policy on AI, we do not sideline or separate the issue of values.

"With companies like Infineon, Google and Microsoft, whenever I meet their leader, I always ask them. How do they respond?

"Without exception, they all admit that AI is a new technology. But they acknowledge that what-

ever is produced or 'spit out' by AI depends on what is fed into it.

"What is being fed into it right now, through ChatGPT and other platforms, is largely shaped by Western countries, especially the United States, China and others.

"If we want to ensure AI emphasises values and addresses our concerns with religion, culture and diversity, then we must train our children in AI, including aspiring cartoonists."

He said they must first master the knowledge, then incorporate culture, religion and values, so that these machines produce things that reflect the Malaysian perspective.