

'NATION RESILIENT DESPITE CHALLENGES'

NEW STRAITS TIMES 03 JUN 2025 pg. 3

Strategic steps taken by govt to ensure economic stability, says PM

QISTINA SALLEHUDDIN
KUALA LUMPUR
qistina.sallehuddin@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA remains resilient despite global challenges and continues to play its role as a catalyst and leader in regional diplomacy through its 2025 Asean chairmanship, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

He said despite global uncertainties, including geopolitical tensions and trade tariffs, Malaysia was grounded and proactive in protecting its interests.

Malaysia, he said, had been

among the earliest and most agile countries in protecting its industries, businesses and the welfare of its people.

"Strategic steps have been taken comprehensively and inclusively, involving all stakeholders, to ensure the nation's economic stability and competitiveness remain safeguarded," said Anwar in a congratulatory speech in conjunction with the official birthday of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia.

He said Malaysia's approach had opened new avenues of cooperation across various sectors, including trade, green technology, food security and regional peace.

"This Asean Summit has been one of the most significant in history, marking the first time Malaysia, as chair, brought together three major regions: the Gulf Cooperation Council, China and Asean.

"This historic moment reflects our joint efforts to ensure the con-

tinuity of civilisations, stimulate national and regional economies, and deepen cooperation across areas of mutual interest.

"The recently concluded summit, along with the hosting of Lima '25 (the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition) in Langkawi, shows that teamwork is key to realising our aspirations," he said.

Anwar said that in line with Visit Malaysia 2026, the country was ready to welcome the world.

"Visit Malaysia 2026 will catalyse economic growth and job creation. It is not merely a tourism agenda, but a manifestation of our love for the homeland, its culture and heritage."

He said the government, under the guidance of Sultan Ibrahim, was committed to implementing a comprehensive reform agenda based on the Madani principles.

This, he said, involved a multi-faceted approach of policy

changes, investment, entrepreneurship and technology to improve people's livelihoods.

"His Majesty's decrees have always guided the government in shaping and formulating policies, carrying out responsibilities, upholding the aspirations of the people and ensuring the well-being of society.

"Pure material development is not sufficient, but must instead be balanced with human values, social justice and the dignity of humanity," he said.

Anwar said efforts to strengthen national integration would be intensified to ensure no one was left behind.

This, he said, was because stability and national unity were fundamental to progress.

"In a rapidly changing and challenging world, unity is not a choice — it is a necessity."

Anwar also said infrastructure development efforts would in-

clude economic reforms aimed at increasing the people's income.

This policy, he said, would involve improving schools, upgrading hospitals and enhancing transport networks.

He added that infrastructure development would not be limited to the East Coast Rail Link and the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, but would also include improvements to public facilities and services.

"The people are not only given promises of hope, but are also supported in a tangible and ongoing manner.

"The strategy to raise incomes includes structural reforms, attracting high-quality investments, empowering small and medium-sized enterprises, and strengthening the technology and innovation ecosystem.

"Every citizen should have the opportunity to progress, regardless of ethnic or cultural background."