

Healthier, longer, happier lives

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Anwar urges sustainable longevity economy to support healthy ageing

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KUALA LUMPUR: It is the government's vision that no Malaysian should grow old in fear of poverty, abandonment or irrelevance, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said embracing a long life of quality and dignity requires a sustainable longevity economy that safeguards the healthcare and well-being of the people.

He said older Malaysians are healthier, more educated and capable than ever nowadays and with the right support, they can continue contributing through work, mentorship or community service.

He added that since longevity requires a transformation of society, there should be policies to ensure that it is sustainable.

According to a study, the average Malay-

sian can expect to live to age 76, but not before suffering nine years of poor health, Anwar said, meaning that after age 67, their health goes downhill with a reduced quality of life.

"This gap has not improved over the past two decades. In fact, it has widened from 8.6 years in 2000.

"This means living longer does not guarantee that we are living better," Anwar said in his speech at the launch of the International Social Wellbeing Conference 2025 (ISWC 2025) themed "Living to A Hundred: Are We Prepared?" held at the Shangri-La Hotel here yesterday.

Also present were Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, EPF chairman Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali and EPF chief executive officer Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn.



In the spotlight: Anwar flanked by Amir Hamzah (left) and Mohd Zuki at the launch of ISWC 2025 in Kuala Lumpur. Also with them are Ahmad Zulqarnain (right) and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

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