

'STUDENTS MUST MASTER STEM'

Malaysia attracting top firms; needs technological expertise to meet demand, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for greater focus on human capital and technological expertise.

He said Malaysia is attracting top global companies, such as Microsoft, Google, Nvidia, Infineon and Arm Holdings.

"We need engineers, we need AI (artificial intelligence) specialists, we need technology experts. Where will we find them? From

our students.

"If our children are not well-trained, they (the companies) will seek expertise and professionals elsewhere.

"So, to the principals, headmasters, teachers and parents, remember this message," he said during the state-level Madani Iftar event at Padang Istiadat here.

Anwar specifically addressed schoolchildren, teachers and parents, who were among the 10,000 attendees.

He said after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri break, children must change for the better by mastering languages and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

"When school resumes, it must be with a renewed spirit and determination. The younger generations must strive to raise the dignity of our state and country.

"That must be our commitment. If this is the spirit we uphold, *InshaAllah*, we are not only

on the fight track, but this country will continue to grow and become a great nation with a bright future for the youth.

"I pray that this spirit reaches our students because they will determine our future."

It was previously reported that over half of the students in Sabah are interested in STEM. The state government is considering setting up a Sabah AI council this year.

The state is also collaborating with Universiti Malaysia Sabah to set up an AI centre.

At the event, Anwar praised Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor for ensuring political stability in Sabah thus allowing the state to focus on development.

He stressed that leaders should prioritise public welfare over personal interests.

"When given a 'microphone', some resort to cursing and hatred over issues such as skin colour, culture and language, and this

cannot solve problems.

"I would also like to thank our partners in all parties as only when we are stable can we focus on energy transition, industrial plans and things such as AI.

"We (are able to) think calmly because our politics are stable."

Anwar urged the state to solve issues related to hardcore poverty, people's housing, potholes, roads and water woes.

Earlier, Anwar had a briefing at the district office with state ministers and officers to discuss development projects.

He said, among the things discussed were water, roads, electricity, schools and clinics.

He said these projects could be completed within one to two years if corruption was curbed, helping Sabah become a "great and developed" state.

Present at the Madani Iftar event were Hajiji, state ministers and State Speaker Datuk Seri Kadzim Yahya.