

CAPACITY BUILDING

CYBERSECURITY AGENCY, MAHB TO COOPERATE AFTER HACK

PM wants to boost Local expertise in handling cyberthreats

HAKIM MAHARI
KUALA LUMPUR
hakimmahari@nst.com.my

DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has instructed the National Cyber Security Agency (Nacsa) and the National Security Council to work closely with Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd following the recent cyberattack on the airport operator.

His senior press secretary, Tunku Nashrul Abaidah, said in a daily press briefing that the prime minister reminded all parties not to spread unverified information and to rely on official sources for updates.

He said the cyberattack underscored the importance of ensuring local capabilities to handle cybersecurity threats were at the highest level.

"The collaboration between government agencies and industry players must be well-coordinated to ensure that the nation's critical infrastructure remains secure against any threats.

"The capacity and competence

of local experts must continue to be strengthened to reduce reliance on foreign entities in managing the country's critical systems.

"The readiness of local experts to respond to cybersecurity incidents will remain a priority for the government.

"This serves as a guarantee to uphold public and investor confidence in the country," he said.

On March 25, Anwar said MAHB was attacked by hackers demanding a US\$10 million ransom.

He said the government refused to meet the demand.

In a joint statement, Nacsa and MAHB said the attack targeted certain computer systems at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, but its operations were not affected.

They stated that the attack was detected on March 23, prompting an immediate investigation.

Nacsa chief executive officer Dr Megat Zuhairy Megat Tajuddin had said the agency had been monitoring the situation since receiving MAHB's report.