

# No to US\$10mil ransom, says PM

## More funds to be channelled towards boosting cybersecurity instead

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The hackers who breached Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad's (MAHB) digital system demanded US\$10mil (RM44.3mil) in ransom.

The government, however, decided not to give in to the criminals, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Instead, we plan to allocate more funds to strengthen Malaysia's cybersecurity systems," he said, confirming that the breach happened a few days ago.

"We discussed cyberattacks and hacking yesterday, and it was quite serious against MAHB in the past one or two days," the Prime Minister said in his speech during the 218th Police Day celebration held at the Police Training Centre



### Pressing issue:

Anwar giving a speech during the 218th Police Day celebration at Pulapol in Kuala Lumpur.  
- Bernama

(Pulapol) here yesterday.

Discussions were held to find solutions to resolve the issue, including the hackers' demands, Anwar added.

"When I was informed, I didn't even wait five seconds - I immediately said no.

"This country will never be safe if its leadership and systems submit to the ultimatums of criminals or traitors, whether from inside or outside the country," Anwar said.

However, he did not provide specific details on the cyber attack

or whether it had been resolved.

Acknowledging the risks of such a decision, Anwar said the incident proved that the country needs to allocate more resources to the police and Bank Negara, among others, to prepare for cyber threats.

On other matters, he said corruption involving enforcement agencies, smuggling and strife between religions and races must not be allowed to fester as it would weaken the country.

"That is why I appreciate stern action taken by the security agencies. It must be consistent.

"When it comes to curbing corruption and ensuring good governance, I am confident the country's political climate and atmosphere will improve if the police and other enforcement agencies take stern and firm actions (against wrongdoers) regardless of their

ranks or influence," he said.

Anwar said the country's recent success in curbing cross-border crimes showed the commitment of enforcement agencies.

"Nowadays, the police are much more capable. They achieved various successes including those by the General Operations Force, who acted as one team. They have been instrumental in tackling smuggling along the borders," he added.

On a recent narcotic success, he said: "Drugs not only destroyed our children's future but tarnished our image as a nation when a syndicate uses our country as transit before sending a shipment to Australia."