



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launching Clinical Research Malaysia's Trial Connect event in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (second from left), Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Suriani Ahmad (left) and CRM chief executive officer Dr Akhmal Yusof (right). NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

ALLOCATION REQUESTS

'CONSIDER FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS OF GOVT'

No country can satisfy all the demands of every region, community, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reminded all ministries and departments to be mindful of the government's financial constraints when requesting allocations.

Speaking at the opening of Clinical Research Malaysia's (CRM) Trial Connect event here yesterday, he called on the Health Ministry to ensure that its personnel understood not only public health issues but also the nation's economic limitations and fiscal responsibilities.

"Every ministry, every department, every research institution, understandably, seeks more funding but we must consider the broader context — schools, rural infrastructure, clinics and hospitals all compete for the same limited resources," he said.

While acknowledging that the government could allocate more funds, Anwar said doing so would require increasing taxes — a burden that would be shouldered by the public and medical professionals alike.

"Every region and community will have its demands but no country can satisfy all of them.

"The key is to understand our limits and implement solutions that are both efficient and economically sound," he added.

Anwar also stressed the pivotal role of CRM — a research management organisation under the Health Ministry — in bolstering the nation's clinical research ecosystem, adding that institutions should not operate in isolation but instead collaborate to maximise impact.

He called for stronger collaboration between CRM, local universities and Asean partners to produce research relevant to the region's healthcare needs.

"To me, CRM is not merely a research hub. It must be fully integrated into the Madani framework — working hand-in-hand with domestic and regional institutions to develop a robust and competitive research environment," he said.

Anwar said Malaysia must reduce dependence on multinational pharmaceutical companies that imposed high costs.

Ensuring equal access to healthcare, especially in rural and underserved areas such as Kelantan, Pahang and Sarawak, must remain a priority, he added.

Since its establishment, CRM has contributed over RM1.5 billion to Malaysia's gross national income and created more than 3,000 high-skilled jobs.

The prime minister said each clinical trial produced widespread benefits, and

strengthened hospitals, clinical development centres, data hubs, logistics network and centralised laboratories.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said Malaysia was rapidly becoming a key player in elevating Southeast Asia's global standing in clinical research.

He affirmed the ministry's commitment to building a sustainable, inclusive and ethical clinical research environment that prioritised quality, talent development and regional cooperation.

"CRM's transformation into a globally trusted research management organisation is testament to our long-term vision," said Dzulkefly.

Present at the event were Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Suriani Ahmad and Sarawak Deputy Premier Datuk Dr Sim Kui Hian.

In another development, the government will set up a Digital Asset and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Advisory Council to drive the country's digital economy.

Anwar's senior press secretary, Tunku Nashrul Abaidah, said the advisory council would play a key role in strengthening the country's capabilities in digital assets and AI technology.

"The council will comprise local and international experts, industry players, academics and policy thinkers to ensure Malaysia's approach aligns with global best practices while remaining relevant to the local context," he said during the Prime Minister's Office's daily briefing yesterday.