



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the launch of MaiStorage Technology in Putrajaya yesterday. NSTP PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Govt to keep supporting digitalisation, AI in Asean

PUTRAJAYA: The government will continue supporting the development of digitalisation and artificial intelligence across Asean to position the region as a competitive digital hub.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia's digital push extended beyond domestic growth to building a strong, integrated regional ecosystem that benefited Asean.

"Malaysia will also continue to support the development of digitalisation and AI in neighbouring countries, because we want Asean, not just Malaysia, to become a more competitive digital hub," he said at the launch of MaiStorage Technology here yesterday.

While highlighting Malaysia's progress and reputation as a stable and policy-driven tech destination, Anwar said digital transformation must be a collective Asean effort if the region were to stay globally competitive.

He cited Malaysia's collaboration with Vietnam and Singapore under the Asean Power Grid initiative as an example of regional cooperation in cross-border infrastructure, including energy and digital connectivity.

"The thrust of our Asean chairmanship has been energy transition, and we have seen some success through collaboration

among Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore on the power grid.

"But, more importantly, the focus of our chairmanship is digital transformation. This is not just about platitudes or pronouncements, it is something we can be genuinely excited about.

"Our neighbours can share in and support this venture, just as we will continue to support digitalisation and AI development in the region."

Anwar said policy clarity and governance reform in Malaysia had created an enabling environment for technology and AI development.

He credited the New Industrial Master Plan and other national strategies for giving clear direction and certainty for investors and innovators.

"But the real challenge lies in effective execution, which is a common struggle for many countries, including ours.

"That is why when I began this journey with my team, we focused first on governance. Unless we establish sound governance, we cannot ensure business discipline, policy clarity and efficient, transparent execution.

"If we do that, we can showcase Malaysia not only as a centre for AI development but also as a high-end innovation hub that adds real value to the industry."