

'DEFINING CHAPTER'

# PM: ASEAN'S FUTURE MUST BE PEOPLE-CENTRED

KL Declaration signed as new roadmap to transforming region by 2045

KUALA LUMPUR

**A**SEAN'S future must rest on the foundations of sustainability and inclusion, as reaffirmed in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on

Asean 2045, adopted at the 46th Asean Summit yesterday.

Asean Chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the region's integration must be genuinely people-centred, with a firm commitment to narrowing development gaps and improving lives across all member states.

"This means closing development gaps, raising standards of living and investing in the human spirit and potential of all our citizens.

"This shared blueprint gives



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim handing over the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Asean 2045: Our Shared Future to Asean Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn at the signing ceremony as part of the 46th Asean Summit at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. NSTP PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

shape to that belief. It is a vision anchored in realism, animated by resolve, and made possible by trust," he said in his opening remarks at the KL Declaration signing ceremony.

Asean leaders yesterday signed the KL Declaration on Asean 2045: Our Shared Future, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Asean Charter and other instruments on the bloc's

10th anniversary.

The document will replace the Asean 2025: Forging Ahead Together, a blueprint signed during Malaysia's chairmanship in 2015.

It will serve as a new roadmap to transform Asean into a resilient, innovative, dynamic and people-centred community, as well as a key growth hub in the Indo-Pacific region by 2045.

The Asean 2045: Our Shared Fu-

ture is a compendium of six documents, namely The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Asean 2045: Our Shared Future; Asean Community Vision (ACV) 2045 "Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred Asean"; Asean Political-Security Community (APSC) Strategic Plan; Asean Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026-2030; Asean Socio-Cultural Community (AS-



CC) Strategic Plan; and Asean Connectivity Strategic Plan.

Anwar said the declaration marked a defining chapter in its journey of regional integration

"In 1967, our founding members pledged to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and through joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity.

"Today, we renew that solemn promise, not as a tribute to the past, but as a living covenant with the future."

He said a decade ago, Asean launched the Asean Community Vision 2025 that reaffirmed Asean's role as an anchor of stability and a rising centre of economic gravity.

With the renewed blueprint, Asean would also be renewing its promise to the people, region and the generations yet to rise, he added.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim posing with other Asean leaders at the plenary session of the Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.