

Cooperation among leaders vital to meet challenges, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR: Strong cooperation by Asean leaders is imperative to face the increasingly complex challenges in the global economy, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

“Such strong cooperation will drive faster development,” he said in his opening remarks at the Asean Leaders’ Meeting with representatives of the Asean Business Advisory Council (Asean-BAC) yesterday.

“Some key decisions must be made by the governments themselves. As such, a procedure has been established to ensure that all member states can voice their views at every Asean meeting.”

Anwar said the global economic environment would be more challenging this year and Asean must strengthen the capacity of

its governments to enhance the region’s competitiveness.

Meanwhile, Asean-BAC chairman Tan Sri Nazir Razak said Asean businesses needed to strengthen collaboration across public-private partnerships and among enterprises in the face of global economic uncertainty.

He said the council had a productive engagement with Asean leaders, during which they presented 12 priority areas that were met with a positive and supportive response.

“Of course, while the projects will take time to materialise, and despite the positive reception, we will need to navigate necessary policy changes. Nonetheless, I’m very happy with the outcome of our engagement,” he said during a doorstep interview.