

RAPID GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY

'NEW LEGISLATION TO REDEFINE SOVEREIGNTY'

Traditional notions must be reviewed to protect nation's security, says Anwar

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THE government plans to draft legislation to redefine sovereignty in light of the rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud-based technologies.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri An-

war Ibrahim said following the evolving role of governance in the digital era, traditional notions of sovereignty, designed for a pre-digital world, must be reconsidered to accommodate new technological realities.

"AI is so penetrative, so compelling that it covers the whole spectrum of governance and daily life that we leaders have no choice but to try to grasp this new

technology.

"Governments are there to protect sovereignty, but then the word sovereignty predates new technology. It has to be reviewed, repurposed to protect the security of the nation," he said during a panel session at the 2025 Fortune Asean-GCC Economic Forum here yesterday.

Anwar said legislation needed to be introduced to redefine sovereignty so that "we can adapt to new technologies and let AI operate more independently".

Present at the forum were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk



Delegates watching a screen showing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the Fortune Asean-GCC Economic Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

Anwar also dismissed criticisms that his views on AI were overly philosophical, saying Malaysia must move decisively.

However, he said while AI offered immense potential, its development must not come at the expense of local values and intellectual diversity.

"There is no way we can slow down. In fact, (for) Malaysia, I want to drive this, get all the legislation in place, get this sovereignty issue resolved and I am determined to push it as hard as possible.

"However, I am also aware that our understanding, values and knowledge cannot be dictated by one particular society or values, but how do we resolve this?

"It is through education, understanding and critical thinking," he added.