

New legislation needed for artificial intelligence, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR: New legislation has to be introduced to enable artificial intelligence (AI) to operate independently without having to subject itself to the laws of the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Although national laws protect a country's sovereignty, new legislation has to be enacted to transform new technologies.

"If you want to accept AI, then you cannot be thinking of sovereignty in the old school form."

He was speaking during a panel session at the Asean-GCC Economic Forum 2025, titled "The Intelligent Grid: Building Bridges Through Sovereign AI Collaboration", organised by

Fortune yesterday.

Anwar said although some Asean and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have only recently begun substantive engagement with Malaysia, there is already a strong foundation of mutual understanding on critical issues.

"These include governance, international relations and the adoption of new technologies such as digital transformation and alternative energy.

"When you have leaders having that sort of mindset promoting new technological advancement and change, it could not have happened if we do not have this basic trust with

one another."

He said such trust is instrumental in encouraging broader cooperation, with Asean and GCC getting onboard, and persuading China to align on certain positions.

He reiterated that these fundamentals are supported by the fact that Asean is relatively one of the most peaceful regions in the world, coupled with its status as the fastest-growing economy, while GCC countries continue to achieve remarkable progress in renewable energy, digital transformation and AI adoption.

"There is no point in having all this facade in hosting big international conferences if we

cannot persuade the team to come up with very substantive agreements."

He said amid shifting global dynamics, legitimate concerns cannot be dismissed lightly as they deal with human beings that bring values, faith, personality, historical understanding and national identity.

Anwar said the current global political order suffers from a "deficit in values" and urged caution against blindly adopting new technologies without an ethical foundation.

He highlighted the importance of education and critical thinking, which are keys to empowering diverse perspectives. - Bernama