

PM: MSMEs BACKBONE OF NATION'S GROWTH

They also employ 8.1 million people, says Anwar

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MICRO, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) contributed RM652.4 billion to the gross domestic product (GDP) last year, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said this during the same period, MSMEs also employ 8.1 million people.

He said the sector has become the main driving force of the economy and people's heroes, continuously contributing to national development.

"Those working in MSMEs are on the frontlines every day, from morning markets to night market traders, ensuring that people have access to food and necessities at affordable prices.

"They embody the true spirit of the nation's enterprise."

He said during the closing ceremony of the National Hawkers and Small Traders Day in Lurah Semantan. The speech was read on his behalf by Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail.

At a separate event, Anwar said the chemical and petrochemical industries are among several sub-sectors emphasised by the federal government in Pahang through master plans and initiatives.

He said the key industrial sub-sectors in the state also include the automotive, heavy and medium industries, as well as food production.

He added that Pahang is home to several industrial sub-sectors that serve as the backbone of the state's economy and contribute to its growth.

"In the chemical and petrochemical sub-sector, the Malaysia Chemical Industry Roadmap 2030 outlines aspirations to drive the development of chemical products and the sector to a competitive, high-technology and sustainable industrial ecosystem."

Anwar said: "In terms of trade, the chemical and chemical products sector ranks among the top five with the highest total trade

value in the manufacturing sector, representing 12.15 per cent of the country's total trade up to June 2025."

He said this in his speech during an engagement session with Kuantan industry players at the Gebeng Advanced Technology Training Centre here.

Wan Rosdy also read the speech on his behalf.

Up to September this year, Anwar said Pahang had recorded RM17.43 billion in total investments, surpassing the annual target of RM14.09 billion and generating over 11,000 jobs across various sectors.

Anwar was supposed to make a working visit to Pahang but cancelled it due to back pain.

The Prime Minister's Office said the last-minute cancellation was made following advice from Anwar's medical team after he experienced back pain that restricted his movements.

"He apologises, especially to the people of Pahang, who had prepared to welcome him."

