

# 'No one must be left behind'

## PM: Progress should be rooted in compassion

By GERARD GIMINO  
gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's progress must be rooted in compassion and empathy, with no one left behind, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the country's progress must take into account the well-being of its people.

"Regardless of race or whether it involves those from the interior or poverty, this is our responsibility."

"We must remember that developing the country means uplifting the people. No one must be left behind," he said at the launch of the National Heart Institute University College (IJNUC).

"It is not just about developing warehouses, labs or specialists. While those are important, what we really want is to develop a sense of humanity," he added.

The Prime Minister commended IJN for its achievements, acknowledging that its services are on par with the best in the world.

"The specialists are excellent, and the facilities are great. At the same time, we must not forget the role of others, including cleaners and technicians. That is where the values of humanity come in."

"The best should be rewarded



**Empathy first:** Anwar arriving at the launch ceremony of IJNUC in Kuala Lumpur. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

accordingly, while other groups must be given due respect, as they also contribute," he said, adding that economic success and efficiency must not come at the expense of fairness and social responsibility.

Despite the rise of sectors such as artificial intelligence, digital transformation and energy transition, the Prime Minister emphasised the importance of values.

"In South Korea (during APEC)

we discussed artificial intelligence and digital transformation.

"While they are important, I also emphasised values. We must not allow ourselves to progress while losing our sense of humanity," he said.

IJNUC vice-chancellor Prof Emerita Dr Durrishah Idris said that there are aspirations to establish the institute as a respected establishment.

"We move forward with confi-

dence while building win-win collaborations together with various quarters, including public and private higher education institutions, relevant industry players and more," she said.