

# 'ASEAN POWER GRID OUR CROWN JEWEL'

It promises energy sustainability, security and affordability across region, says Anwar

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**T**HE Asean Power Grid is the backbone of regional cooperation that links sustainability, security and affordability across the region, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The prime minister said Malaysia remained fully committed to the regional electricity grid, which was first conceptualised over two decades ago.

"A central pillar of that vision – the crown jewel, if I may – is the Asean Power Grid.

"Conceived more than two decades ago, it embodies Asean's aspiration to connect our power systems, share resources and build resilience through interdependence.

"This will enable us to harness renewable energy potential, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels

and deliver reliable, affordable electricity across borders," he said when launching the Asean Energy Business Forum yesterday.

He said through recent meetings, the region had achieved key outcomes for the energy sector, including the adoption of Phase One of the Asean Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation and the endorsement of the enhanced memorandum of understanding for the Asean Power Grid.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the new plan of action would serve as Asean's policy compass for the next decade, charting clear pathways to expand renewable energy, boost efficiency and strengthen regional interconnections.

"It also places equity at the centre of our transition. This ensures that all member states advance at their own pace towards a low-carbon, sustainable and integrated energy future.

"Malaysia has long supported the APG. Beyond our interconnections with Singapore and Thailand, we are part of the Laos-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project, which has enabled multilateral power trade.

"We are preparing the Vietnam-Malaysia-Singapore interconnection and advancing work under

the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines framework," he said.

Anwar said a well-connected regional grid would strengthen the region's integration, attract green investments, create high-quality jobs and position the region as a hub for clean energy industries and technologies.

He urged all Asean member states to intensify efforts to accelerate interconnection projects, harmonise regulatory frameworks and deepen public-private collaboration.

Anwar also said under Malaysia's chairmanship, Asean had endorsed the Asean Power Grid Financing Initiative (APGF).

"Developed with the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, the APGF will serve as a dedicated platform to mobilise green finance, prepare bankable projects and accelerate cross-border investments both on land and under the sea.

"The APGF ensures that our vision of a fully interconnected Asean Power Grid by 2045 is not only technically possible but also financially viable and inclusive.

"Its establishment reflects our collective resolve to deepen regional energy links and to position Asean as a model of sustainable and equitable cooperation," he added.