

ECONOMIC TURBULENCE

PM: BE RESILIENT AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES

Human ingenuity and public-private sector cooperation, key to overcoming current challenges

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on the business community and private sector to remain resilient amid global economic turbulence.

He said human ingenuity, combined with cooperation between the public and private sectors, would be key to overcoming current challenges.

Anwar said that while the global economy was standing at a crossroads, it was not the first

time nations had faced political, trade and investment upheavals. "At times, we tend to exaggerate the problems we face. But if we look at history, such political and economic upheavals have always existed.

"Somehow, human ingenuity and determination of the business community have enabled us to overcome them," he said in his speech at the DHL Malaysia Go-Trade Summit 2025 here.

Anwar drew parallels with past crises, referencing the late economist Joseph Schumpeter's theory of "creative destruction", in which innovation often emerges from disruption and hardship.

After such periods of upheaval, new ideas, industries and opportunities are born.

"What matters most is that we face these challenges with clear policies, discipline and a strong rapport between the public and private sectors," he added.

Anwar said governments must play a guiding role in ensuring

stability through sound policies and close cooperation with industry players, especially as nations grapple with rising tariffs, trade restrictions and volatile supply chains.

He said Malaysia remains cautiously optimistic about the global outlook, expressing confidence that collaborations with major economies, like the United States, China, India, Japan and South Korea, could help restore global balance and growth.

"We are not underestimating the challenges ahead, but I remain confident that with sanity, pragmatism, and cooperation, we will prevail," he said.

Turbulence in trade and investment, said Anwar, should serve as a reminder for countries to reinforce their economic foundations and cultivate agility in policymaking.

Meanwhile, he also said Asean must remain united and open in the face of global uncertainty.

"Amid this uncertainty, Asean must continue to embody the prin-



A man walking in front of the 47th Asean summit billboard near the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday, NSTP PIC BY EFFENDY RASHID

ciples of openness and unity, while enhancing collaboration with the private sector, including established industry players," he said.

Anwar added that Asean had emerged as a critical link in the global supply chain, serving as a hub for manufacturing and innovation, as well as a growing market for goods and services.

"Within the next five years, Asean is projected to become the world's fourth-largest economy.

"This growth is not accidental. It is the result of a collective resolve to uphold free and fair trade while harnessing our comparative advantages."

He added that Asean's strength lay in its ability to adapt and integrate, even amid disruptions in the global economy.

The region, he said, must not only attract investments but also

ensure that growth remains inclusive, benefiting small businesses, entrepreneurs and local communities.

On another matter, Anwar said Malaysia intended to reinforce Asean's central role in ensuring that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) translated into tangible benefits for small and medium enterprises, workers and communities.

He said the success of the 5th RCEP Leaders' Meeting next week will hinge on Asean's ability to transform commitments into real economic opportunities.

Anwar said the largest trade pact, which encompassed nearly one-third of global gross domestic product and trade, stood as a strategic affirmation that open regionalism remained Asean's pathway to shared prosperity.