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# CONFIDENCE IN MALAYSIA'S TECH PUSH



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RM250b IN APPROVED DIGITAL INVESTMENTS

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Government aims to leverage momentum to speed up economic restructuring, move country up value chain

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**M**ALAYSIA has attracted RM250 billion in approved digital investments over the past two years, with the projects expected to create around 80,000 skilled jobs.

Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said the investments reflected strong investor confidence in Malaysia's economic prospects and its push into high-growth sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors and data centres.

The government aims to leverage the momentum to accelerate economic restructuring and move Malaysia further up the value chain, he said.

The government is also seeking to maximise the benefits of private-sector investments by ensuring they contribute to talent development, technology transfer and long-term competitiveness.

"We have to take advantage of the investment momentum and ensure that these private investments contribute to improving our competitiveness.

"We have to ensure that incoming investments support the upskilling of our workforce and provide greater access to advanced technologies. This will be key to helping Malaysia



Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir

navigate the challenges and concerns we are facing," he said during a ministerial dialogue at the Energy Transition Conference 2026 yesterday.

Akmal said Malaysia must move beyond traditional sector-based development and adopt a more integrated approach linking energy, digitalisation and economic growth.

According to him, energy infrastructure has become a critical enabler of economic activity, particularly as emerging technologies such as AI and data centres require substantial electricity and water resources.

"Energy leads to digitalisation because today's digital economy is

energy intensive. Digitalisation then uplifts productivity, and from productivity we should aim for greater economic complexity and better incomes for our citizens."

He said the energy transition agenda should not be viewed solely through the lens of decarbonisation but also as a catalyst for economic transformation.

Malaysia, he said, is focusing on sectors with strong growth potential, including semiconductors, AI and data centres, while seeking to deepen participation in higher-value activities.

In the semiconductor industry, Akmal said the government's objective is to move beyond traditional packaging and testing activities into advanced packaging and integrated circuit (IC) design.

He cited Malaysia's partnership with British semiconductor intellectual property firm Arm Ltd as part of efforts to strengthen domestic capabilities and position the country higher in the global semiconductor value chain.

"The government decided to enter into a partnership with Arm to move beyond semiconductor packaging and testing. While we are still advancing into more sophisticated packaging technologies, our ambition goes further towards IC design. It is now up to us to take this opportunity to uplift the standard," he said.



The Energy Transition Conference 2026 in Kuala Lumpur. BERNAMA PIC