



05 JUN, 2026

## Balancing act in energy transition

Borneo Post (Kuching), Malaysia



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# Balancing act in energy transition

AI presents opportunities, but it must not outpace nations' sustainability ambitions, says PM

**KUALALUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has cautioned that while the growth of artificial intelligence (AI) presents abundant opportunities to accelerate energy transition efforts, it must not outpace nations' sustainability ambitions.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, says the challenge lies in ensuring that the growth of AI would not outpace the sustainability ambitions that it is expected to support.

He has also stressed that while countries pursue AI-driven economic growth, it is imperative to ensure that energy remains secure, affordable to consumers and sustainable, and this should remain a priority.

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"Nevertheless, AI has the potential to strengthen energy systems, from improving grid efficiency and forecasting renewable energy generation to optimising industrial energy use," he said in his keynote address at the second day of the Energy Transition Conference 2026 (ETCon26) here yesterday.

Anwar said the rapid expansion of AI would likely accelerate this trajectory further, with data centres and advanced computing infrastructure requiring unprecedented levels of electricity.

"As countries race to build digital economies and harness AI-driven growth, the challenge before us is not only to generate more energy, but to ensure that it remains secure, affordable and

sustainable," he said.

Hence, the Prime Minister gave the assurance that energy transition would be just, energy secure and AI-driven in the nation's interest.

"That is, and must continue to be, the measure of this work," he added.

Anwar said energy transition had become one of the key pillars of the country's policy framework alongside AI and semiconductor development, with all three sectors closely intertwined through their growing energy requirements.

He said the expansion of digital infrastructure, particularly data centres, had prompted the government to reassess national energy projections to ensure sufficient capacity to support future growth.

"I remember three years ago, when I initially looked at the projections, I said to TNB (Tenaga Nasional Bhd) and the ministries that we have to review this because the focus in this region and particularly in Malaysia, the mushrooming of data centres and the interest in AI and semiconductors would demand more water, more energy," he added.

Anwar reiterated countries pursuing AI-driven growth should take pains to ensure that energy would remain secure, affordable and sustainable, adding that these imperatives should remain a priority.

"I emphasise the word affordable because whatever impressive results when submitted to me, I would also say thank you, but I will look

at the price to be paid by the consumers.

"What is it to the common man and woman? How do they fare in this more sophisticated new technology and AI?" he said.

The Prime Minister said AI also presented significant opportunities to support energy transition efforts, including improving grid efficiency, forecasting renewable energy generation and optimising industrial energy consumption.

However, he cautioned that technological advancement must be accompanied by considerations of affordability, connectivity and values in line with the Madani framework. — Bernama

As countries race to build digital economies and harness AI-driven growth, the challenge before us is not only to generate more energy, but to ensure that it remains secure, affordable and sustainable. That is, and must continue to be, the measure of this work.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim



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Delegates explore and experience the innovative technologies and equipment showcased at the exhibition during ETCon26 in Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. — Bernama photo