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Anwar calls for global unified response as security and prosperity threats loom



KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for a global unified response in the face of an increasingly fragmented global landscape that threatens collective security and prosperity.

Anwar said the digital realm, which he dubbed the "second reality", faces relentless cyber attacks that threaten to compromise sensitive data, undermining security, and the trust "upon which our societies and economies stand."

"These escalating threats are pushing the world towards an unprecedented turning point, demanding a unified response," he said in his opening speech at the 18th Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security (Natsec) Asia 2024 exhibition here on Monday (May 6).

Also present at the exhibition were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and other top government officials.

Anwar said the theme "Building Resilient Nations for the Next Generation," was a challenge to look beyond horizons and innovate in ways that fortify nations against multifaceted threats.

"It is a clarion call to lay the groundwork for a better world where tomorrow's generations can thrive in peace, safeguarded by the robust and strategic partnerships we cultivate today," noted the Prime Minister.

In the coming days, Anwar said there is a tremendous opportunity for crucial dialogue among nations, defence sectors and security industries.

"We convene, not just as representatives of our nations, but as partners in a collective endeavour to address the pressing defence and security-related challenges of our time," he said.

Anwar also said that environmental concerns and the scarcity of resources would exacerbate further tensions.

"Climate change is also not a distant threat but a present crisis, impacting food security, causing natural disasters and displacing communities.

"As societies wobble under these pressures, the spectre of crumbling economies looms large, undermining the prospects of future prosperity," he said.

Anwar said in light of these issues, it was clear that all of the current challenges were not isolated but interconnected elements of a broader global crisis.

"This demands collective response and strategy and it is here that DSA and Natsec 2024 shine as a beacon of hope," he added.

He also urged all participants to come together to share their knowledge, to innovate and exchange new technologies and ideas as well as forge new partnerships.

"I believe that the events and deliberations over the next three days will serve as a catalyst for positive change, towards a secure future for us and the generations to follow.

"Together, we can build a resilient world, a testament to the strength found in unity," he said.

Anwar, however, reiterated that Malaysia will continue to observe the principle of neutrality in its relations, specifically within Asean, with the West, China, Africa, Latin America and the rest of the world.