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## Clean technology way to achieve economic success

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government must formulate strategic policies, incentives and directives to promote the setting up of clean technology (cleantech) companies as the way forward to achieve economic success, said Emir Research president and chief executive officer Datuk Dr Rais Hussin.

He said these companies could offer products or services, which are increasingly demanded by the market, to improve the environment's long-term health.

Rais added that Malaysians should leverage their expertise and competitiveness to start cleantech companies, which are set to become the largest enterprises in the world, replacing tech giants in the not-too-distant future.

He said this is because of existing climate change challenges which are giving rise to a shift in consciousness whereby humans are balancing their consumption and the environment.

Rais said this has already

➤ Govt must formulate strategic policies, incentives and directives to promote cleantech firms, says think tank chief

spawned exponential growth in electric vehicles, carbon management, drones and robotics, sustainability and clean energy.

"Indeed, cleantech will expand to encompass all industries as well as the companies and people involved."

He said businesses in the cleantech sector, which offer products or services that work to improve environmental health, do so by mitigating the environmental impact of traditionally harmful industries, and creating innovative products that transform the way these industries work.

Rais said this should be part of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's new government's innovation agenda, just like the

best innovation economies.

He said Emir Research, a think tank focused on strategic policy recommendations based on rigorous research, advocates that Malaysia's innovation agenda should be a holistic movement encompassing other areas besides cleantech.

He added that these include digital transformation, foreign investment, food security, unity and tolerance, radical transparency and good governance as well as curbing costs.

"The government should take the lead in replacing outdated and broken old systems at the pain points of society, institutions and the economy."

Rais said the goal should be to

replace unfair exploitation with impartial empowerment to better serve the needs of the people, not only for now but also for Malaysia's future progress.

He said Anwar's avalanche of decisions after his first Cabinet meeting demonstrated the strategic directions of the government to spearhead the country to a new trajectory of economic success.

Rais added that critical among them is food security, whereby the harsh lessons learned from the global pandemic need to be structurally resolved to prevent its recurrence, Bernama reported.

He said the country's staggering RM65 billion net annual food imports should be addressed by increasing the current arable land bank or land used for agrofood from a meagre 2% to 10%.

Rais added that the government and government-linked agricultural companies should lead in investing in and promoting the use of innovative technologies.