

KERATAN AKHBAR

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'Move will allow more to join digital economy'

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PETALING JAYA: Amazon Web Services' (AWS) plan to launch its first AWS region in the country will allow more local companies, especially small- and medium-scale enterprises, to be more involved in the digital economy.

International Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said the spillover of AWS' plans would enable Malaysia to attract more investments and benefit local organisations.

"Cloud is one of the major enablers for businesses to come to Malaysia when they want to grow, and the data centres we currently have here are not enough to support that growth. So the investment by Amazon is positive for Malaysia.

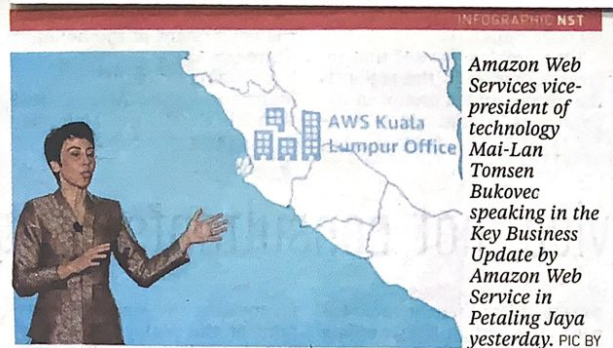
"It will also have an effect on our talent pool as we need more

people with technology background. With AWS, it will allow more tech companies to come here and provide opportunities for Malaysian talent to participate in the digital economy," Tengku Zafrul said.

AWS had said it would be investing US\$6 billion in the country by 2037, including cloud computing infrastructure with three "availability zones" to run its customers' applications and store data securely, with fast access to AWS services.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli welcomed the investment by AWS to establish a data region in the country as it is one of its biggest investments to date.

"This is a significant development that will have profound impact on Malaysia's digital transformation and innovation efforts.



"Malaysia is proud that AWS has chosen the country as its destination of choice in the growing data centre market of Asean," he said.

The investment was timely as the country was undergoing critical reforms to restructure and digitalise its economy, Rafizi added. The country needed real-time, granular data made available via an environment conducive to experimentation and

learning, he said.

"The prerequisite for this is affordable, scalable, and secure data infrastructure, and cloud computing platforms like AWS provide all three ingredients.

"This investment is also key to creating a cloud-first public sector with the competency to deliver digitalised services for the people's ease, while using data to continuously improve public service quality," said Rafizi.