

## Real-time data, AI to strengthen Malaysia's audit governance, says Auditor General

By **Hakim Mahari**

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) performs the launch gimmick when launching the

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is spearheading audit modernisation with digital-driven reforms that enable real-time detection of risks and governance irregularities, said Auditor General Datuk Seri Wan Suraya Wan Mohd Radzi.

Among the initiatives introduced are the e-SelfAudit system to promote transparency and accountability within government entities, the Serious Irregularities Mechanism for early detection and swift action, as well as audit dashboards to ensure real-time monitoring and public oversight.

Wan Suraya said Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data analytics are also being deployed to enhance the accuracy, speed, and impact of audits.

"This is a growing effort and, most importantly, it allows for the early detection of risks.





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"This proactive capability is something that traditional audit models could not achieve," she said in her keynote address at the Asian Confederation of Institutes of Internal Auditors (ACIIA) Conference 2025 here today.

Wan Suraya said the National Audit Department (NAD), through the Auditor General's Dashboard, can now monitor the progress of audit recommendations in real time rather than relying solely on manual checks and separate reports, as was previously the case.

"This dispels the perception that issues raised in the Auditor General's Report are ignored, or that the NAD is merely an organisation without authority.

"It is important that the recommendations made lead to improvements year on year.

"If the same weaknesses recur and I have often seen organisations flagged for three consecutive years then it shows that the governance culture within that organisation needs to be strengthened."

She also urged auditors and internal auditors to strengthen follow-up mechanisms by setting measurable key performance indicators (KPIs) and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to demonstrate significant reductions in recurring non-compliance findings over time.

"A proactive governance culture must be built on a shared belief that early detection and continuous improvement are organisational priorities, not just compliance requirements.

"In budget execution, procurement, or policy delivery, the public must be assured that public resources are managed transparently and with clear purpose," she said.



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