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National security can no longer be viewed through the lens of conventional threats alone. The expanding influence of cyberspace, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, and digital interconnectedness has fundamentally altered the strategic environment in which nations operate. Security threats are now increasingly hybrid in nature, crossing physical, digital, economic, and informational boundaries simultaneously.

Cyber threats are now more complex, sophisticated, and interconnected with wider geopolitical developments. Around the world, cyber capabilities are being exploited not only to disrupt systems and infrastructure, but also to manipulate information and undermine trust, threatening national harmony if left unchecked. The emergence of technologies such as artificial intelligence and deep-fake applications further intensifies these challenges and highlights the urgent need for stronger preparedness and resilience.

For this reason, strengthening national resilience in the digital domain must remain a collective and continuous priority and in supporting this national priority. The advancement of national cyber resilience requires platforms that encourage strategic engagement beyond institutional boundaries. CyberDSA 2026, which will take place from 5 to 7 October 2026 at MITEC Kuala Lumpur, fulfils this role by facilitating closer cooperation among key stakeholders shaping the national digital security landscape.

This year's theme, "Advancing Secure AI, Strengthening Digital Trust, and Safeguarding Data Sovereignty" reflects the urgent need for nations and institutions to ensure that technological advancement is accompanied by strong governance, accountability, and resilience.

As threats continue to transcend institutional and geographical boundaries, no single entity can address these challenges independently. A comprehensive whole-of-nation approach, supported by strong inter-agency coordination, industry collaboration, and continuous capability enhancement, remains critical in strengthening the nation's preparedness and resilience. I am confident that CyberDSA 2026 will continue to facilitate constructive engagements and cooperation among stakeholders committed towards safeguarding the nation's digital future.

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