

M'sia prioritised for Brics membership – PM

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Bernama

Malaysia is among the countries prioritised for potential Brics membership, said Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

In a discussion with Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday, Anwar said the focus right now is on whether Malaysia should join Brics immediately or start as a partner country.

“The important point is that we are one of the countries given priority due to the invitation extended to non-member nations,” he said at a press conference on the final day of his working visit to Russia.

On Malaysia’s potential involvement in Brics, Anwar noted that discussions with the prime ministers of China and India, as well as with President Putin (above, left) and the president of Brazil, had all been positive.

“We are considering Brics because we believe that the cooperation of southern countries within the Global South is highly beneficial,” he added.

Anwar also mentioned that Putin had invited him to the Brics Summit in Kazan, Russia, from Oct 22 to 24.

“We are evaluating the possibility of attending or sending a representative, given the numerous external commitments next month,” he said.

Negative effects ‘mere rhetoric’

Addressing concerns about potential negative effects on Malaysia’s relations with the United States and Europe, the prime minister dismissed these as mere rhetoric.

He emphasised Malaysia’s independent stance and open approach to international cooperation.

“Our approach is open and free in international relations, as evidenced by our interactions with Europe, America, China, India, and now Russia.

“Brics strengthens the Global South, offering us economic opportunities free from external pressures,” he added.

Established in 2009, Brics initially comprised Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2010.

In January 2024, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates joined as new members.

Together, Brics members account for a cumulative GDP of US\$26.6 trillion (RM115 trillion), representing 26.2 percent of the world's GDP, nearly equalling the economic strength of the G7 group.

The Brics nations collectively have a population of 3.21 billion, expected to grow further with the addition of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE, which together have 333 million people.

This will create a market of approximately 3.54 billion people, or nearly 45 percent of the world's population.

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