

Anwar, Li Qiang discuss trade cooperation and regional stability

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Strengthening trade and investment cooperation, while addressing key regional issues, was at the forefront of discussions between Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Chinese Premier Li Qiang during their bilateral meeting in Kuala Lumpur this morning.

It was understood that the 15-minute closed-door discussion touched on regional issues, with China expressing support for peace efforts regarding the Cambodia-Thailand border situation and the ongoing crisis in Myanmar.

Both leaders also discussed a wide range of initiatives aimed at enhancing trade and investment, particularly in the automotive and high-technology sectors, including the development of the Automotive High-Tech Valley in Tanjung Malim, Perak.

The meeting covered infrastructure connectivity, including the expansion of the East Coast Rail Link from Kota Bharu to Rantau Panjang in Kelantan, as well as collaboration in critical areas such as rare earth elements, the Perak-Penang water pipeline project and the halal industry.

Additionally, tourism cooperation and people-to-people knowledge exchanges were also highlighted, along with efforts to enhance air connectivity by attracting more cargo flights from China to Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

The two leaders also discussed semiconductor industry collaboration and reaffirmed support for the Asean Power Grid (APG) initiative.

As Asean chair, Malaysia welcomes China's participation in advancing the APG to promote sustainable energy cooperation across the region.

Regarding the digital economy, Malaysia invites leading Chinese technology companies to expand their local presence and investments while encouraging new Chinese firms to establish regional operations here.

Close friendship

Earlier, Anwar, in his opening remarks, said, "Many times your visit to Malaysia and my visit to China, and I appreciate your participation; it means a lot for Malaysia and Asean. I think we will focus on the bilateral issue today.

"And thank you for the invitation, President Xi Jinping, for the 80th anniversary of China, and I hope to meet up with him in South Korea in the next few days," he added.

Anwar said the meeting further strengthened the already close Malaysia-China friendship, based on trust and mutual respect, by becoming a symbol of a bilateral relationship growing stronger and anchored in regional stability.

“Our discussions focused on strengthening bilateral trade and investment. Malaysia is committed to expanding high-value exports in the electrical and electronics, aerospace, medical, renewable energy, and oil and gas sectors under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative Cooperation Plan,” he said.

Additionally, port cooperation between Malaysia and China, which will reinforce the country’s position as a regional logistics and maritime hub, was also discussed.

Anwar said Malaysia also welcomes continued Chinese investment in the digital, semiconductor and green technology sectors, in line with our aspiration to become Asean’s leading innovation hub.

Also present were Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz, his deputy Liew Chin Tong, and Transport Minister Anthony Loke.

Li also attended the signing ceremony of the Asean-China Free Trade Area upgrade, followed by the 28th Asean-China Summit this morning.

Malaysia, which holds the Asean chairmanship this year under the theme “Inclusivity and Sustainability”, is hosting the 47th Asean Summit from Oct 26 to 28.

The event brought together more than 3,000 delegates and leaders from over 30 countries and international organisations to enhance regional engagement and cooperation.

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