

TIES, INVESTMENTS ON CHINA VISIT AGENDA

PM will meet top leaders, investors and major corporate figures during 4-day China visit



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BEIJING

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's four-day official visit to China will see him meet the country's top leaders, investors and major corporate figures.

The visit, Anwar's first to the Asian giant since taking office on Nov 24, will enhance bilateral relations and cooperation.

Events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Malaysia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership will be part of the trip.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir said China is the first East Asian country Anwar is visiting after taking office.

"The prime minister will be one of the first leaders to visit Beijing after Chinese President Xi Jinping's reappointment for a third term a few weeks ago and Li Qiang's appointment as China's premier," he told Malaysian reporters on Tuesday night.

International Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Local Government Development Minister Nga Kor Ming, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang and Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing are part of the Malaysian delegation.

Zambry said Anwar will attend the Boao Forum for Asia today.

"He will give a speech during the plenary session. The theme of his speech is 'An Uncertain World: Solidarity and Cooperation for Development Amid Challenges'.

"The prime minister will arrive in Beijing at 4.30pm on Thursday



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim being greeted upon arriving in Hainan, China, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

(today). He will be greeted by (Chinese) Deputy Foreign Minister Sun Weidong.

"An iftar event with Malaysians in China will be the prime minister's first programme in Beijing, with more than 200 Malaysians from all over China attending."

He said Anwar will have a packed schedule on Friday, including speaking at the renowned Tsinghua University. Then Anwar will pay a courtesy call on Xi.

He said discussions between the leaders would focus on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields, particularly in the context of the 10th anniversary of the Malaysia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and 50th anniversary of Malaysia-China diplomatic ties.

"Both leaders will discuss matters that will steer bilateral relations into the future and take into account the challenging international situation.

"They will discuss trade, political cooperation, corruption-prevention and civilisation.

"This meeting will be followed by a courtesy visit by National People's Congress chairman Zhao Leji. Their discussion is expected to focus on cooperation between Malaysia and China, particularly among members of parliament.

Zambry said the last programme on Friday was an iftar event organised by the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce that will be attended by Muslim leaders in China and Malaysian corporate figures who are part of the visit.

He said Saturday will see Anwar take part in a roundtable meeting with high-profile investors and Chinese corporate figures, followed by a business forum with 1,000 participants from Malaysia

and China.

"The prime minister will deliver the keynote speech. At least 11 memoranda of understanding (MoU) will be signed between Malaysian and Chinese companies," he said, adding that both programmes were expected to yield good results in trade and investment.

He said on Saturday afternoon, Anwar will be feted by Premier Li Qiang at an official welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People here, followed by a bilateral meeting between the two.

"Discussions will focus on the detailed steps to be taken on the economy, trade and investment. They will tackle certain projects that will strengthen economic relations for the benefit of the citizens of both countries.

"The leaders will witness the signing of three MoU and hold a media conference to announce the results of their discussions and the decisions made."

Zambry said Malaysia will reap great investment returns from Anwar's official visit.

"I cannot state it (investment value). But I can reveal that the expected amount will be a lot. Let the prime minister announce it. Let him issue a statement based on the MoU that will be signed.

"There will be two types of MoU, one on trade and the other in the form of an understanding between governments, such as cooperation in agriculture and between ministries and departments."

He said China has been Malaysia's largest trade partner since 2009, with trade value between the countries last year representing 17.1 per cent of Malaysia's global trade, worth RM2.8 trillion.