

# Anwar's China visit set to boost KL-Beijing ties

BEIJING: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's three-day official visit to China from today is expected to open a new chapter in strengthening the strategic relationship between Kuala Lumpur and Beijing in a more comprehensive way.

This is Anwar's maiden visit to the East Asian country since taking office last November.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zamry Abdul Kadir said this visit is historic and meaningful, considering that the prime minister had received an invitation from the Chinese government to visit the republic merely four months after being sworn in to lead the new Malaysian government.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Malaysia-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and the two countries would also celebrate the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations next year.

"This clearly shows the aspirations of the Chinese government, especially President Xi Jinping who has just been appointed as president for the third

## Trip historic as premier received invitation from Chinese government merely four months after being sworn in, says foreign minister

term, to forge closer ties with Anwar's unity government," Zamry said here on Tuesday.

He said Anwar is also one of the first world leaders to visit Beijing after Xi's re-appointment earlier this month.

The prime minister is expected to arrive here this evening after attending the Boao Annual Forum for Asia in Hainan and to be met on arrival by China's Deputy Foreign Minister Sun Weidong.

Zamry said Anwar is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Xi tomorrow, where discussions will focus on new steps that can be taken in various fields to boost and strengthen bilateral relations.

"They will also discuss concrete measures that can be taken in the field of trade, political cooperation, prevention of corruption and civilisational issues."

Zamry added that the two

leaders would also exchange opinions on the direction of bilateral relations, taking into account the increasingly challenging international scenario.

He said this would be followed by a meeting with the chairman of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji, where the discussion will focus on cooperation at the parliament level of both countries.

Zamry added that on Saturday evening Anwar would be accorded an official welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, which will be followed by a bilateral meeting.

"The discussions between the two leaders will focus on detailing the steps that can be taken, especially in the fields of economy, trade and investment."

He said Anwar is also expected to discuss issues of mutual interest

during his meeting with the Chinese leaders, including international and regional geopolitical issues, as well as security and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Anwar is scheduled to deliver a public lecture at Tsinghua University, which is one of the most distinguished universities in China, in addition to attending a round-table meeting with high-profile investors and Chinese captains of industry.

The prime minister is set to deliver a keynote address at a business forum which will be attended by nearly 1,000 participants from Malaysia and China, Bernama reported.

Zamry said despite his jam-packed itinerary, Anwar is also scheduled to attend a breaking of fast ceremony with Malaysians in China organised by the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce, which will also be attended by leaders of Muslim communities in China.

During the three-day visit, at least 14 MoUs related to trade and agriculture will be signed between the two countries.