

PM CHAMPIONS GAZA'S PLIGHT AT APEC

Malaysia also attracts RM63b in investments during Anwar's trip to US

SAN FRANCISCO

CORE values and the importance of multilateralism, especially for emerging economies like Malaysia, and the need for humanity to prevail beyond political alliances are among the messages Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim emphasised here.

His message on every platform was simple: the killing and atrocities in Gaza have to stop.

Anwar, who was here for the 30th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders Meeting, also participated in the Apec CEO Summit and delivered a public lecture titled "Superpower rivalry and rising tensions in the Asia-Pacific: The view from Southeast Asia" at the University of California, Berkeley.

Malaysia, he had said, condemned the atrocities in Gaza. The death toll in the crisis since Oct 7 has surged past 12,000.

"Every second matters and a delay in a unanimous call by world leaders to stop the bombing means more babies will be victimised."

Besides Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia were the other two of the 21 member economies that spoke on the conflict.

The trio issued a landmark separate statement at the end of the Leaders Week, calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Apec failed to agree on a paragraph proposed by the United States that mentioned the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, but not Gaza.

"Overall, I am happy because it is an important position.

"We are not members (that are) adversarial or combative, but we take the position as friends," Anwar said.

"I didn't use the forum to condemn but to appeal. To stop the atrocities in Gaza."

Anwar, who is finance minister, said Apec should remain a platform for nations to develop strategies that stimulate economic progress while maintaining the highest standards of co-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, meeting Malaysians in San Francisco on Friday. BERNAMA PIC

operation and respect.

Member economies were at various levels of development and were trying to recover after the pandemic, which meant there needed to be more collaboration, he said.

"There is no doubt that the US-China rivalry will be the structural reality of world affairs, but emerging economies should not be pushed to take sides.

"Countries like Malaysia and Asean cannot be forced to see the world and big powers in the Cold War mindset."

He said this at a question-and-answer session at the Apec CEO Summit titled "The global economy and state of the world".

He said the US had been a traditional ally and a major investor in Malaysia, but there had been increased trade and investment from China.

At the meetings, he shared Malaysia's priorities and principles under the Madani Economy Framework, emphasising inclusivity, sustainable development and cooperation for shared prosperity.

He arrived here on Nov 13 to attend the Apec Economic Leaders' Meeting, which ended on Friday.

Malaysia, along with 13 other nations, signed the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (Ipef) supply chain agreement, marking the country's entry into the trade pact led by the US.

The 13 other countries are Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, the US and Vietnam.

The Ipef consists of four pillars: trade, supply chain, clean energy and fair economy. Four separate agreements will be negotiated for each of these pillars.

Malaysia secured RM63.02 billion in investments during the prime minister's meetings with executives from technology gi-

ants such as Google, Enovix. Cooperation, Microsoft and TikTok, as well as through the trade mission led by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Aziz Tengku Abdul Aziz.

The investments are from Abbott Laboratories, Mondelez International, Amsted Rail, Hematogenix, PerkinElmer, Ford Motor Company, Boeing, Amazon Web Services, Enovix and Lam Research.

Anwar also held meetings with Vietnam, Peru and Canada on the sidelines of the meeting.

He said he and Vietnamese President Vo Van Thuong agreed to address illegal fishing in Malaysian waters.

Both leaders discussed the issue of the South China Sea and agreed to adhere to the Declaration of Conduct on the South China Sea and called for an effective code of conduct.

Anwar said he had agreed to facilitate Peruvian President Dina Boluarte's request that Malaysia open an office in Peru for the halal certification of Peruvian products.

As for the meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Anwar said besides bilateral trade and investment, both leaders also exchanged views on Palestine.

They agreed that the conflict emphasised the need for a two-state solution and the end of Israel's occupation.

Anwar was accompanied by wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil and Tengku Zafrul.

Present during his engagements were Malaysian ambassador to the United States Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz and the consul general of Malaysia in Los Angeles Anil Fahriza Adenan. **Bernama**