

PM: INVESTOR TIES NOT AFFECTED BY GAZA STAND

Investment pledges totalling RM63b inked with US in bilateral meetings at Apec gathering

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia's strong stance in criticising Israel's attacks on Palestine has not affected its economy or foreign investments, especially from the United States.

He said Malaysia registered RM63 billion in investment commitments from the US in several bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the 2023 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Economic Leaders' Week in San Francisco last week.

Anwar said apart from the bilateral meetings with other leaders, he also held meetings with multinational entities, including Google, Microsoft, TikTok and TPG.

He said major US investors, including Google and Microsoft, still placed heavy emphasis on political stability and clear government economic policies, de-

spite the strong pressure exerted by Malaysia and other Islamic countries against Israel.

"Some in the country raised concerns that our tough attitude in facing the US and European countries would affect our economy.

"As people who are responsible for the country and its economic growth, we take this issue into account and are sensitive to it.

"The International Trade and Industry Ministry adopted the strategy of inclusivity, sustainability and resilience to establish relationships.

"There is no question of trade relations being affected. They are aware of our stand," he said during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, was replying to Aminolhuda Hassan (PH-Sri Gading) on the country's participation in the 8th Extraordinary Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), and 2023 Apec Economic Leaders' Week recently. At the OIC Summit hosted by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Anwar urged member states to push for an immediate ceasefire and to hasten humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza.

Anwar said he also raised the Palestine issue at the Apec Economic Leaders' Week and called for Israel's atrocities in Gaza to

end. He said at the Apec summit, which he attended at the invitation of US President Joe Biden, he again asserted that no other global power should dictate what Malaysia's stand on the issue should be.

"The West should not regard this as colonial hegemony in deciding our policies and shaping our actions. They cannot force us to decide on our stance.

"I had stressed rather firmly that we must at least stop the attacks.

"I said an additional day of war means that more children, women and civilians will become victims."

To a supplementary question from Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal (PN-Machang) on whether the government could lobby other countries that are members of the Rome Statute to bring Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to be charged for war crimes at the International Criminal Court (ICC), Anwar said although Malaysia was not a signatory to the Rome Statute, it had sent delegates from the Attorney-General's Chambers to provide assistance to the countries that were doing so.

He said in his meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, he had declared Malaysia's readiness to attend the ICC if the need arises.