

# PM MEETS 4 BUSINESS TITANS' TOP EXECES

Google, Boeing among top US firms interested to expand operations in Malaysia, says Anwar



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NEW YORK

**D**ATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim's efforts to attract investors to Malaysia continued with meetings with four giant companies, namely Google, Boeing, Medtronic and Siemens Healthineers.

The one-on-one business meetings were held on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly here.

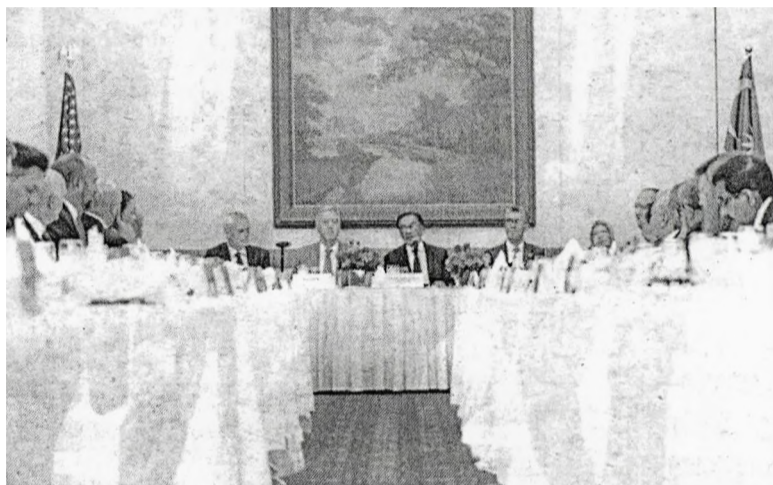
The meetings were also attended by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir and representatives from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said these companies had expressed their desire to expand their operations and businesses in Malaysia.

The unity government will also facilitate and encourage investments to ensure that Malaysia continued to be the preferred investment destination in the Southeast Asian region.

Anwar also held a meeting with economist Professor Joseph Stiglitz from Columbia University, who is also the winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in the field of economics.

"We used this occasion to exchange views regarding the economic needs of developing countries to be given fairer opportunities, especially in an increasingly challenging global environment.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim attending a roundtable session with executives of Fortune 500 companies at the Harvard Club in New York on Thursday. BERNAMA PIC

"We also discussed measures and strategies to increase income and eradicate poverty and, at the same time, ensure sustainability.

"A more comprehensive education system also needs to be focused on to build the identity and character of the future generation," he said.

The ideas discussed will also be utilised and cultivated to enhance the country's economic potential, Anwar added.

The prime minister also held court at a question-and-answer session at the Invest Malaysia New York event, organised by Bursa Malaysia.

This was Bursa Malaysia Bhd's first physical Invest Malaysia New York event in six years, as part of a push for investments for Madani Economy initiatives.

More than 100 representatives from major United States companies and fund managers attended the event, as well as the roundtable with Fortune 500 companies held earlier.

At the event, Anwar said despite the rivalry between the US and China, the tension in the South China Sea and China's recent huge increase in investments in Malaysia, the US remained the country's top investor.

Anwar said Malaysia was an independent country and welcomed trade and investments from everyone, adding that the past and present US administrations had always been supportive and traditional allies.

"We have excellent ties with China, too. I feel comfortable meeting President Xi Jinping, and I have also met Premier Li

Qiang three times.

"That, to me, places Malaysia in a unique position to utilise and benefit from our relationships with both the US and China," he said during the session.

Anwar said Malaysia had benefited from vast investments made by major US firms, such as Amazon Web Services, Boeing and Intel.

He said Malaysia remained one of the countries with the best infrastructures in the region, and was continuously taking steps to alleviate investors' concerns, such as the ease of doing business, financial procedures and corruption.

Last year, the US topped Malaysia's list of foreign direct investments, with a net inflow of approximately RM37.8 billion.

Last month, outgoing US ambassador to Malaysia Brian McFeeters said US companies had pledged investments totalling RM100 billion in various sectors in Malaysia over the last 18 months.

He said these significant investments were in areas where the US wanted to strengthen its presence, namely the electronics and semiconductor sectors, as well as the data centre segment, a major growth area,

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz and the Malaysian delegation crossing a street on their way to a roundtable with executives of Fortune 500 companies in New York on Thursday.