



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at PKR's Himpunan Perdana Rakyat in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. PIC BY MOHD ADAM ARININ

IN 14 YEARS

PM: STRONG RINGGIT RUN A TEAM EFFORT

Anwar gives credit to Madani govt, people's efforts for currency's robust performance

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the ringgit is set for its best run in 14 years due to the collective effort of Malaysians.

In his speech at PKR's Himpunan Perdana Rakyat here yesterday, the prime minister credited government policies and the country's strong diplomatic and economic ties with other countries.

He said he was invited to discussions by the world's top leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, because of these government policies and the collective effort of Malaysians.

"It is not because of me, it is not because of Anwar.

"It's because of government policies, our strength and unity.

"This is because of our team in the Madani government, because of the efforts of the people. This is why we are respected."

It was reported that the ringgit is set for its best run in 14 years on the back of optimism about the economy and the inflow of foreign funds.

Anwar said he received the invitation to meet leaders as Malaysia and Sabah's representative.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said he had always included Sabah when he talked about investments in tourism, new technology and renewable energy during his visits to foreign countries.

However, he said, he would not compromise on Malaysia's sovereignty even with strong ties with foreign nations.

He said this while citing Malaysia's strong ties with the Philippines and the issue surrounding a claim over Sabah.

"(I have a) personal relationship with Philippine President (Ferdinand) Bongbong Marcos (Jr). He treats me as one of his good friends.

"Therefore, we need to discuss properly. But when it comes to sovereignty of the country and the position of Sabah in Malaysia, we will not compromise on it."

Anwar's message of not com-

promising on the sovereignty and Sabah was a reiteration of his statement in Putrajaya recently.

He had, on July 30, said the unity government would not tolerate any demands, including over Sabah.

On the Philippines' claim on Sabah, he said the government had made a firm statement that "we will not compromise even an inch of our land and that we will not get involved in any negotiation involving the rights and sovereignty of our country".

He said he maintained a close relationship with Marcos and "therefore, this channel should be used to maintain security".

Last month, it was reported that Malaysia had submitted a diplomatic note to the United Nations to reject the Philippines' bid to reclaim a territory in Sabah's waters.

The Philippines' submission to the UN was about reclaiming a seabed territory.

Manila had registered its entitlement to an extended continental shelf in the western Palawan region of the South China Sea, defining the seabed areas over which it claimed sovereign and exclusive rights to extract natural resources.