



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim delivering his lecture at the Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi on Tuesday. BERNAMA PIC

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PM: WORLD'S INACTION OVER GAZA IS HYPOCRISY

Anwar also tells India think tank BRICS bid part of Malaysia's economic diplomacy efforts

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has criticised the international community for its inaction over the Gaza genocide as sheer hypocrisy.

"Some may talk about a genocide in Ukraine because of the bombing of some villages, but when 40,000 people are killed in Palestine, they treat it as an 'impact of war' and condone it.

"This is shocking and I call it sheer hypocrisy," Anwar said.

He was speaking during a question-and-answer session after delivering a lecture titled "Towards a Rising Global South: Leveraging on Malaysia-India Ties" at the Indian Council of World Affairs think tank here on Tuesday.

Earlier, the prime minister took to X to underscore that any meaningful progress toward peace must begin with Israel unconditionally stopping all military action and acts of aggression against the Palestinian people.

In his lecture, Anwar said Malaysia aimed to diversify its economic diplomacy efforts by

participating in the intergovernmental organisation BRICS and enhancing its collaboration with member countries through shared initiatives and strategic partnerships.

Malaysia had applied to join BRICS, a cooperation platform for emerging economies that was established in 2009. Its name is an acronym of founding members Brazil, Russia, India and China, with South Africa joining in 2010.

In January 2024, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates joined the organisation.

"India's distinct and influential role within BRICS is of particular importance, as we recognise that our strong bilateral ties will add significant value to the dynamics of the grouping," he said.

Anwar, who is also the finance minister, said Putrajaya was confident that its entry into this group would not only strengthen economic linkages with India but also open new avenues for cooperation across a broader spectrum of industries and policy areas.

He said that contrary to conventional views, Malaysia believed that "minilateral" mechanisms such as BRICS worked towards delivering public goods to benefit people and raise living standards.

"In that vein, Malaysia will not shy away from exercising agency and participating in these arrangements as we see fit. Our re-

cent application to join BRICS is a fine example."

The gross domestic product of BRICS member countries amounted to US\$26.6 trillion, which is 26.2 per cent of the world's GDP, almost the same as the economic strength of the G7 countries.

BRICS member countries have a large population 3.54 billion people, or almost 45 per cent of the world's population.

Anwar arrived here on Monday for a three-day official visit to strengthen India-Malaysia ties and establish a multi-sectoral cooperation agenda.

Accompanying Anwar are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan; Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz; Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing; Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo; and Human Resources Minister Steven Sim.

This is the prime minister's first visit to India after assuming office in November 2022.

Total trade between Malaysia and India stands at US\$16.5 billion, and has grown 8.5 per cent a year in the last two decades.

Anwar added that the trade growth trajectory was not just a statistic but a testament to the deepening economic linkages facilitated by frameworks such as the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and the Asean-India Free Trade Agreement. **Bernama**