

'MALAYSIA OPEN TO ALL INVESTMENTS'

Ventures from US, such as MAHB-GIP deal, vital to country, says PM

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MALAYSIA remains an open trading nation, accepting investments from various

countries, including the United States, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Speaking at the 47th American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) annual general meeting luncheon here, the prime minister said that therefore, the collaboration between Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) and Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) was vital for the country.

"We made it very clear that Malaysia must remain a trading nation, open to investments, and therefore, the collaboration between MAHB and GIP, for us, is critical. So, we, as a government, support it. I think that explains well our position vis-a-vis investments from overseas and, in particular, from the US.

"Most of you are not aware of how sensitive and difficult (the issue) is, how the entire discourse (is) so rancorous at the local level, particularly at the by-election (in Sungai Bakap) with critics casting aspersions and allega-

tions about our decision.

"So, I used the forum in Parliament to give the facts and to say that we, as a country, have benefitted immensely from investments from overseas."

Anwar said although investments from Europe and China had increased, the US remained the country's largest investor.

Anwar urged companies under AMCHAM to focus on technology transfer, building centres of excellence and conduct training within the country.

He said investments were crucial, but these three elements were equally important, adding that the cooperation between local and international companies must become more effective.

He said although investment was an important aspect, the three items were equally as important, adding that the cooperation between local and international companies needed to be more effective.

Anwar also said an Asean digital policy would be a priority when Malaysia assumes the bloc's chairmanship next year.

He said the matter was still being reviewed and drafted by the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry, and that initial discussions had taken place in Jakarta earlier this year.