

# PM: AUSSIE FIRMS KEEN TO INVEST RM24.5B

This reflects Australia's interest and confidence in Malaysia's policies, says Anwar



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AUSTRALIAN companies have expressed interest in investing RM24.5 billion in Malaysia, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said this was conveyed to him in his meetings with the companies's representatives yesterday.

Major potential investors include data management centre companies AirTrunk, with a possible investment value of RM11 billion, and NextDC, with RM3 billion, he said.

Chemical giant Lynas, with RM1 billion, renewable energy



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (seated, centre) posing for a photo with company representatives at a roundtable meeting with heads of industries in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday. He is flanked by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan (left) and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz. BERNAMA PIC

firm Fortescue, financial services provider Macquarie Group and food technology company Arnott's Group have also expressed interest in investing in Malaysia.

"We held meetings with the senior management of 20 major companies, as well as key importers and investors. The total value of potential investments comes up to RM24.5 billion.

"This is an achievement to be proud of and demonstrates Australia's interest and confidence in our policies. This will open the doors for 1,200 skilled workers in Malaysia," Anwar said at a press conference on the second day of his official visit to Australia.

Present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Investment, Trade and Industry

Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz and Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said in terms of trade, the official visit to Australia could generate RM962.1 million in export sales, including in urea, wood products, food and beverages and electrical components.

"This is in line with our industrial plan and the National Energy Transition Roadmap. I am thankful for this success, which was achieved with the cooperation of the Malaysian High Commission here, the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry and the Foreign Ministry.

"This cooperation has shown that if we pay enough attention to

generating and boosting investment, we can achieve progress which we can be proud of."

Mohamad said the visit to Australia had not only strengthened bilateral ties between Malaysia and Australia, it also provided clarity on uncertain issues.

"This involves efforts to make Australia a country we can cooperate with in energy transition and digital transformation, as they have the necessary skills.

"Anwar also offered solid points for Malaysia and Asean, especially on Malaysia and Asean's stand on the atrocities being committed in Gaza.

"Australia sees Asean as its gateway to the world. They see Asean first before the rest of the world. The entire Asean region is

important and Australia wishes to underscore to the prime minister the strong relations between both countries and its people.

"Yesterday (Monday), Australia announced A\$2 billion in aid to Asean and has provided relaxations in regulations to enable entrepreneurs who frequent the country to obtain 10-year visas. This will facilitate easier travel for entrepreneurs between both countries."

Anwar said his address at the Asean-Australia Special Summit today would focus on cooperation between Asean and Australia.

He said to elevate ties between Asean and Australia, cooperation would focus on energy transition and digital and cyber security.