

Anwar solicits investments from German companies

BERLIN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim called on German businesses to take advantage of Malaysia's strategic location in Southeast Asia and its developed infrastructure to make Malaysia a preferred investment destination.

"Within the European Union, Germany, of course, is our largest trading partner and you have invested a substantial amount, close to US\$15 billion (RM70.24 billion)."

He cited Infineon Technologies AG and many other leading German companies that have

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chosen Malaysia as their important hub, and set up centres of excellence and training centres.

Anwar added that Malaysia looks forward to greater collaboration, not only in

enhancing trade and investment but also strengthening bilateral relations in all fields.

He was speaking at a joint media conference with his German counterpart Chancellor Olaf Scholz

at the Federal Chancellery here.

Anwar, who is also the finance minister, said Malaysia is keen on training students in Germany.

"We have about 1,000 students in Germany for training in German companies for their initial exposure."

He said Putrajaya welcomes Berlin's interest in terms of new investments in renewable energy and green technology.

"Renewable energy is our focus now. We are fortunate because we are strong in solar, green energy and strong in terms of our capacity to export renewable energy."

Anwar said Malaysia is exporting renewable energy to Indonesia's new capital Nusantara and through undersea cable to Singapore.

"So, there is a huge potential that you can see in the mushrooming of data centres and AI in the region, especially in Malaysia."

On other developments, Anwar reaffirmed Malaysia's optimism in achieving economic growth of between 4% and 5% this year, grounded on the solid foundation of the *Madani* economy framework and the reforms outlined in Malaysia's Budget 2024.

He highlighted that the *Madani* economy framework would leverage on Malaysia's innate strengths in enhancing national competitiveness, with emphasis on fiscal sustainability measures, good governance practices and efficacious service delivery.

There are over 700 German companies based in Malaysia, providing 65,000 jobs, Bernama reported.

Malaysia is the largest trading partner for Germany among Asean member states. In 2023, Malaysia's total trade with Germany increased by 5.9% to RM63.45 billion compared with RM59.87 billion in 2022.



Anwar, accompanied by Scholz, inspecting a guard-of-honour mounted for the welcome ceremony held in conjunction with his official visit to Germany. - **BERNAMAPIC**