

Govt welcomes investments benefiting nation

> M'sia prioritises development for people's well-being not interested in interfering in geopolitics of any country: Anwar

PUTRAJAYA: The government will continue to encourage investments that benefit Malaysia without interfering in the geopolitics of any country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said although aware of the strained relations between two major powers, namely China and the United States, Malaysia is not interested in favouring either side.

"Only a few issues have been highlighted, such as the Palestine and China issues, because many Western countries are somewhat suspicious about why we seem to be aligning with China. My response is simple: we are a small country, we want to develop, and we prioritise the well-being of our people.

"The cumulative investment from the US is still number one and we have no problem with investors from the US. We welcome them warmly," he said at the Prime Minister's Department monthly assembly here yesterday.

He added that Malaysia also does not want to stir up issues with China, and although there may be slight differences in opinion, such matters are discussed amicably.

"So when I'm asked about the issue of

Chinaphobia or Sinophobia, my response is that there is no reason for hostility and being anti-anyone."

Anwar said although Malaysia may have differing opinions regarding the US stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict or the violence and injustices perpetrated by Zionist Israel on Palestinian land, particularly in Gaza, these issues are voiced clearly.

"It's not that I choose to make harsh statements against others. I prefer to focus on correcting our country's economy and structure, as well as elevating our nation's dignity.

"However, when innocent children, babies, women, and people are killed every day, when facing US President Joe Biden, of course, I gather the strength to express my stance.

"I said I didn't raise the issue of him recognising Israel, or supporting Israel. I said stop this oppression and killing immediately."

He said his recent visit to Germany was a remarkable success, attributing it to the teamwork of the public service.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the achievement was the result of collaborative efforts of various departments, the Investment,

Trade and Industry Ministry and Foreign Ministry, which made early preparations.

"Investors perceive us to be efficient, quick in decision-making, and without any leakage. I also met several major companies that agreed to invest immediately. Their views on the government's policies, leadership and civil servants were highly positive.

"I would like to take this opportunity, through the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, to express gratitude and pride in serving with such a public service because the impact and response have been remarkable."

Germany is reported to have agreed to assist Malaysia in capacity building, especially in technical and vocational education and training programmes, as well as in exchange programmes between industry players and educational institutions.

He added that during closed-door discussions with investors, they praised Malaysia's dedication to attracting investments from all sides, Bernama reported.

"I deliberately inquired whether the process (investment) would take longer or if there are issues or commissions involved, to which they responded with positive and reassuring answers.

"This demonstrates our capability to boost our economy. In politics, nothing is ever right, but we believe in numbers and data."