

BOOSTING RELATIONS

PM's Central Asia visit generated RM2.1b in potential investment

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's recent visit to Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan has generated potential investments and trade worth more than RM2.1 billion, poised to benefit Malaysia's growth.

"Overall, I am satisfied with the results of this official visit, which has opened a new chapter in Malaysia's relations with the countries in Central Asia," he said in a Facebook post yesterday.

Anwar's tour began in Kyrgyz Republic on May 14, ending with Uzbekistan on Sunday.

These three nations are former Soviet Union states.

"*Alhamdulillah*, my official visit to Uzbekistan has elevated bilateral relations, investment, trade, and cooperation between our two nations to a higher level, with potential exports worth at least RM710 million secured."

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said he had lunch with Uzbek First Deputy Prime Minister Achilbay Jumaniazovich Ramatov and other leaders near the Kalon Minaret Complex before departing for home.

Before heading to the airport, the Uzbek government presented him with a traditional outfit known as Chapan Bukhara, made for the highest leader of Bukhara.

"Ramatov and adviser to the President of Uzbekistan Muzaffar Kornilov accompanied me and the Malaysian delegation to



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wearing a traditional outfit known as Chapan Bukhara presented by the Uzbek government on Sunday. PIC FROM DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM'S FACEBOOK

Bukhara International Airport.

"I expressed my highest appreciation for the exceptional hospitality we received during our stay in Uzbekistan since last Friday.

"It was difficult to leave Uzbekistan after forming such close bonds in a short period."

He also expressed his deep ap-

preciation for the friendship established with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

"Thank you for the sincerity shown during our meetings and discussions."

At the conclusion of his visit, he told Malaysian media that having good relationships with big investor countries, such as China,

Germany and the United States, was beneficial, but so was cooperating with developing countries like Uzbekistan as Malaysia needed staunch friends to avoid being pressured by any powers.

Anwar said the ministers accompanying him had achieved their targets.

He was accompanied by For-

eign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hassan, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar. **Bernama**