

'WELL-KNOWN IN OTHER COUNTRIES'

'WE CAN BE A GREAT NATION:

PM asks people to remain united, humble and do away with narrow-minded attitudes

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MALAYSIA can become a great nation if it remains united and humble, as well as doing away with narrow-minded attitudes.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday said in his official visits to other countries, Malaysia was well-recognised by the hosts and had received the attention of foreign investors.

"The country has received new attention that is remarkable and prideful.

"If Malaysians unite, eliminates their arrogance, and eradicate narrow-minded attitudes and *kabilah* thinking, I believe the country can be elevated as a great nation in this region."

He said this at the National Youth Day celebration at Dataran Pahlawan in Melaka.

At the same time, he said many foreign investors were eyeing other states in country, aside from Penang, Selangor and Kedah.

"During a working trip to Japan recently, I met large Japanese companies, and aside from giving attention to Kulim Hi-Tech Park in Kedah and others in Selangor, the focus was also on Sarawak as the state has enhanced activities in the green hydrogen, ammonia and energy transition field.

"(And) these stats have also attracted the attention of Germany, the United States and Japan.

"This means that the focus to



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim arriving at the National Youth Day celebration at Dataran Pahlawan in Melaka yesterday. With him are Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ab Rauf Yusoh. BERNAMA PIC

develop the nation is not the same as before, where we focused only on certain states."

He added that he would also talk about other states, including Kelantan, Perak, Sabah, Sarawak and Terengganu, for foreign investments.

"This is to allow every state to be given attention by foreign investors to increase the opportunities for our youths to work."

He previously said the country's investment record was expected to jump further this year compared with the last, as evidenced by potential foreign investments totalling RM76.1 billion that had been obtained up to March this year.

He said the amount was recorded through traditional investors, such as the United States and China, and also investments from Australia worth RM24.5 billion, as well as Germany and France (RM46 billion).

He said the government had agreed to allocate another RM5 million for the Malaysian Youth

Council (MBM) to empower youth development.

He said the decision was made following a request by council president Mohd Izzat Afifi Abdul Hamid.

Anwar said he would hand the matter over to Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh for finalisation.

"Last year, Izzat requested RM5 million and I approved the amount.

"However, he requested an additional amount this year, which he did not request last year.

"So only RM5 million was provided as per the previous agreement, alongside an extra allocation provided by the ministry for youth programmes.

"I have also informed Yeoh, (Deputy Youth and Sports Minister) Adam Adli and Izzat that youth programmes must be prioritised and supported," he said.

Last year, he announced a RM5 million allocation for the council to empower youth.

He reportedly said the move was a recognition of the hard work and dedication by the council led by Izzat in supporting the Malaysia Madani concept.

Anwar urged youths to shoulder the responsibility of taking the nation to greater heights and reject narrow-minded ideologies.

"The condition with the additional allocation is that we must remember our responsibilities, seek knowledge and ensure we have sufficient information to bring about change.

"Youths are recognised not just by their voices, but also by their ambitions, their idealism, their disdain for corruption and arrogance, and their love for truth and goodness.

"So we must reject narrow-minded racial ideologies and rigid religious understandings that weaken us, and elevate the dignity of religion in terms of good faith and good morals.

"This is the responsibility of youths."