

Developing nations must be supportive, says Anwar

SAMARKAND: Developing nations should strengthen their collaborations and provide mutual support for each other's economic growth, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Likewise, Malaysia and Uzbekistan should leverage their respective strengths to enhance trade and investment ties, he said.

"Although countries such as Malaysia and Uzbekistan are highly dependent on investments from large nations, our future depends on the ability to develop our own strengths," he said in a post on his Facebook page yesterday.

Anwar said at the Uzbekistan-Malaysia High Level Business Forum on Saturday, the participants had wanted to learn about Malaysia's policies and direction:

"At the forum, I expressed confidence in Malaysia-Uzbekistan collaboration potentials in sectors including oil and gas, engineering, electrical and electronics, halal and Islamic finance.

"This is in addition to new areas such as digital technology and artificial intelligence," he said.

The Prime Minister said he was of the view that companies in Malaysia could learn from Uzbekistan's ability to bring about



Official visit:
Anwar (centre)
and the
Malaysian
delegation
visiting the tomb
of Imam Bukhari,
a famous hadith
expert, in
Samarkand,
Uzbekistan
on Saturday.
– Bernama

changes, modernisation and economic progress within a short timeframe.

In his remarks at the forum, Anwar said Malaysia and Uzbekistan could form special strategic partnerships in new areas, including those related to Muslim interests.

He said Malaysia and Uzbekistan could also focus on education and the new field of digital technology, especially artificial intelligence.

"Our future capabilities depend

on how we build our strength (together). We should always think we can complement each other," he said, Bernama reported.

About 200 companies from both countries participated in the business forum, which was also attended by Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister Jamshid Khodjaev.

Among the participants were Uzbek companies with annual revenue exceeding RM1bil such as Eriell Group, Korzinka, Orient

Group, Murad Buildings and Asklepiy Group, while companies from Malaysia included PETRONAS, the Employees Provident Fund, Khazanah Nasional, Proton, Sunway Group and Sime Darby.

Anwar and Khodjaev also witnessed the exchange of six memoranda of understanding between the two countries' agencies and companies. Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) also signed with local universities.