

Malaysia will boost trade ties with BRICS, says PM

SHANGHAI: Malaysia is committed to enhancing economic and trade relations with BRICS countries for shared prosperity and more balanced global economic development, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

In his keynote address at the opening of the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE), he said Malaysia's decision to participate in the bloc reflected its commitment to a shared future.

He cited Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks at the recent BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, urging the adoption of a spirit of shared future to oppose forces of discord and protectionism.

China urged BRICS members and others to uphold global peace and security and called for members to share their experience and expertise with the world.

Anwar said: "Under the leadership of Xi, we have China promoting this (policy) aggressively, emphasising that the world should benefit everyone, every country, big or small.

"The principle of a shared future has also been well received by countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Global South.

"This is why Malaysia agreed to participate in BRICS."

BRICS was founded by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009 as a cooperation platform for emerging economies. South Africa

joined in 2010. The bloc accounts for one-fifth of global trade.

On Oct 24, Malaysia was among 13 nations accepted as BRICS partner countries, but not as full members.

In his speech, Anwar commended China's phenomenal success in governance and policies under the leadership of Premier Li Qiang.

He also lauded China's belief that trade, investments and economic prosperity would benefit the international community.

"This is, of course, not an easy remark because it is contrary to the expression of many powerful economies of the world.

"That is why I join many of my colleagues in commending China and its leadership for this departure from very obscure, condescending and unfair trading practices.

"This international expo provides an opportunity not only for Chinese companies but also companies throughout the world, small companies and medium enterprises to showcase their capacity and capability, while attracting imports, new investments or an expansion of trade.

"Therefore, multi-country cooperation for free trade and sustainability goals must be used as a tool to advance global progress equitably, instead of as a weapon to quell competition, promote unfair advantage or create conflict."

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM