

PM WOOS FOREIGN INVESTMENTS TO KEDAH

Anwar says this in response to Kedah MB's claim about plot to hinder investments in state



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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim responded to claims by Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor that there was a plot to hinder private investments in the state, saying that he was working to bring investments into Kedah.

"I am also Kedah's agent for bringing in foreign investments. Even though he said that, I still supported Hyundai's investment (in Kulim).

"There were other potential locations, but due to the infrastructure and export channels through Penang Port and Penang Airport, we suggested Kulim."

Hyundai Motor has announced a US\$479 million investment in Malaysia over the next five years, starting next year.

The upgraded facility will begin producing Hyundai's multi-purpose vehicles and Staria minivans by mid-2025. Hyundai plans to expand the range to include medium- to large-sized SUVs.

Hyundai said production would begin at 20,000 units per year, with plans for expansion.

Hyundai will collaborate with Inokom Corporation Sdn Bhd to upgrade its manufacturing plant in Kulim.

Meanwhile, Anwar said the Malaysian delegation to South Korea secured RM32.8 billion in potential investments.

He said meetings with *chaebol* (conglomerates) and major companies had generated high-impact investment prospects.

It was reported that the meetings involved Samsung Group, SK Nexilis, POSCO Group and Lotte



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim delivering an address at the Seoul National University yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

International, focusing on investment opportunities Malaysia offered to South Korean companies, aiming to boost foreign direct investment, particularly in high-impact sectors.

"Potential investments from this visit have reached RM32.8 billion, with immediate exports from Malaysia amounting to RM1.3 billion," he said during a press conference with Malaysian media here yesterday.

About 400 South Korean companies operate in Malaysia across various sectors.

Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Tengku Aziz, who is part of the delegation, said the potential investments were in sectors like electric vehicles (EVs), EV-related metals, biopharmaceuticals, green technology, carbon capture and storage and green hydrogen.

On another matter, Anwar said Malaysia was requesting the acceleration of the delivery of the FA-50M Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) from South Korea.

Previously, the deliveries were set to be finalised in 2026.

"We have requested that the delivery of the 18 aircraft, which were purchased several years ago, be expedited, if possible," Anwar told Malaysian media.

He did not elaborate on the negotiation process for this.

In September, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said Korea Aerospace Industries and its technology partner, Hanwha Aerospace, had revealed that construction for the fighters for the Royal Malaysian Air Force's (RMAF) LCA programme had reached 38 per cent.

The FA-50Ms will replace the ageing BAE Systems Hawk 108/208 aircraft, which have been

in service since 1995.

Korea Aerospace Industries is the prime contractor for the FA-50M, while Hanwha Aerospace is the manufacturer of the advanced Active Electronically-Scanned Array radar for the aircraft.

RMAF ordered the advanced Block 20 variant, equipped with advanced targeting systems, including the Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod and a retractable in-flight refuelling system.

The jets can deliver a wide range of precision-guided munitions and stand-off weapons. They will be used primarily in the light strike role and will complement RMAF's F/A-18D Hornets and Sukhoi Su-30MKM Flankers.

The LCA programme is valued at about RM4 billion.

Bernama reported that Anwar reiterated Malaysia's stance that every country had the right to strengthen defence, but that did not mean they could provoke or threaten other countries.

He said Malaysia condemned North Korea for launching a ballistic missile in October, threatening South Korea's security.

"Every country has the right to conduct any programme to strengthen its national defence, but not the right to engage in provocations.

"This is because such actions will only escalate regional tensions," he told Malaysian media.

Anwar presented copies of the Quran in English and Korean translations to the Muslim community in the republic during a 30-minute meeting with Korea Muslim Federation president Hussein Kim Dong-eok.

Anwar's three-day official visit to South Korea on the invitation of President Yoon Suk-yeol ended yesterday.