

# Anwar, Li Qiang discuss growing bilateral ties

> Chinese PM says relations have entered new stage of historical development, moving towards a shared future

**SHANGHAI:** Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was in Shanghai to attend the 7th China International Import Expo.

Li said bilateral relations have entered a new stage of historical development and are moving steadily towards the goal of building a China-Malaysia community with a shared future, according to Xinhua news agency.

He said China is ready to work with Malaysia to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, uphold mutual respect and trust, treat each other as equals and cooperate for win-win results, working together to achieve the common development and prosperity of the two countries.

Li called on both sides to steadily advance flagship projects such as the East Coast Rail Link and the Malaysia-China "Two Countries, Twin Parks," to tap into the cooperation potential in emerging areas and constantly

expand new space for cooperation.

He added that China would continue to promote cultural exchanges and mutual learning, strengthen cooperation on education and visa facilitation as well as encourage the two peoples, especially youth, to visit each other more often to enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

Li said China would strongly support Malaysia as Asean chair next year, and is ready to strengthen cooperation with Malaysia within China-Asean and other multilateral frameworks to jointly advance regional economic integration, safeguard Asean centrality and safeguard the peaceful development of Asia.

Anwar said Malaysia is willing to deepen the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation with China, promote cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, digital economy, education and enhance people-to-people exchanges, Xinhua reported.

Yesterday, Anwar commenced the third day of his working visit to Shanghai with a dialogue session with Chinese investors, including representatives from Chengwei Capital and NRL Capital, organised by Khazanah Nasional.

Earlier, Malaysian Ambassador to China Datuk Norman Muhamad said the objective of Anwar's four-day working visit to China, that began on Monday, was to meet potential investors to boost the country's economy.

In Shanghai, Anwar is expected to meet several companies and hold a roundtable session with 23 captains of industry.

Anwar's working visit to China is at the invitation of his counterpart Li to attend the expo, a trade fair organised by the Chinese government that provides a platform for countries involved in the BRI to promote and export goods and services to the country.

For 15 consecutive years since 2009, China has been Malaysia's largest trading partner.

In 2023, total trade with China was valued at RM450.84 billion, contributing to 17.1% of Malaysia's global trade, Bernama reported.

The trip is the third visit to China for Anwar as prime minister, as he made his maiden visit to the country in March 2023, followed by another trip in September the same year.