

Anwar lifts mood at Chinese chambers meet

PETALING JAYA: The opening speech was substantial, addressing a range of topics from the economy to foreign investments.

The attendees in the hotel ballroom for the annual general meeting of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia displayed solemn expressions while listening to the address by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

But they laughed out loud when the Prime Minister poked fun at them good-naturedly.

He pointed out that these businessmen would often downplay their successes.

"Every time I ask these towkays, 'How's your business?', they always say, 'Untung sikit je' (just a little profit)."

The attendees burst into laughter.

He recalled a similar conversation with leaders of Malaysia's top palm oil companies, noting that despite their modest claims, these businesses are thriving.

Anwar also acknowledged the country's high debt and the need for responsible taxation.

"We must ensure there is peace, order and justice," he said, before cheekily adding, "So I must tax you a little."



All smiles: Anwar (centre) gracing the opening ceremony of the 78th ACCCIM Annual General Meeting, flanked by former ACCCIM president Senator Tan Sri Low Kian Chuan (third from left). – Bernama