



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launching the 17th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP

'STRONGER BOND WITH GOOD FOR REGION'

Malaysia, China have Laid groundwork for more investment, trade that can boost economies, says PM

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MALAYSIA and China have laid the groundwork for increased investment and trade that can enhance the economies of both countries, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"We believe that a stronger bond and strategic, comprehensive relations with China will help not only Malaysia, but the region immensely, and we will continue to embark on that policy," Anwar said in his speech at the 17th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention.

He said robust trade and investment underpinned the ties between the two countries, with China being Malaysia's largest trading partner for 15 years.

"For 2023, China was the fifth largest foreign investor. With the ongoing trend and the recent visit by Premier Li Qiang in June this year, the enduring friendship and mutual respect between Malaysia

and China have been reaffirmed.

He said Malaysia and China were collaborating on several initiatives, including the Five-Year Programme for Economic and Trade Cooperation and the Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Investment Cooperation in Digital Economy and Green Development.

He said Malaysia's relationship with China extended beyond traditional investment policies and practices to include sectors like tourism.

Anwar told entrepreneurs they were welcome to share their ideas on economic policies to create a more conducive ecosystem for investments and innovation.

He said the government was open to adjusting policies to ensure inclusivity.

"Under the Madani Economy framework, I can assure you that we will continue to prioritise the enhancement of our economic landscape, fostering an environment conducive to investment and innovation.

"We have, of course, crafted policies, but you advise us on what else needs to be done to foster an environment conducive to investment and innovation."

He said the country's economic success would ensure better housing, education, healthcare and infrastructure for all.

"This is what we mean by inclusivity, policies that help pro-

mote economic growth and cater to the welfare of the people."

He said the government had always recognised the role Chinese entrepreneurs played in driving the Malaysian and global economy.

"From Southeast Asia to East Asia, the United States, Canada, Europe and Africa, Chinese entrepreneurs have collaborated closely with others and laid the foundations for forging deeper and stronger business and economic links across national borders."

He said the government was committed to its policy of neutrality, where it continues to engage both the West and the East in investing in the country.

"We also recognise the stark and phenomenal changes taking place in the geopolitics and economic vibrancy of China."

Anwar said Malaysia was collaborating with its neighbours, citing projects like the North Economic Zone in Thailand and New Economic initiatives in Singapore, among others.

Some 4,000 Malaysian business leaders and delegates from Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North and South America are participating in the three-day convention organised by the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The event ends today.