

'CHINA A TRUE FRIEND, STRATEGIC PARTNER'

PM: Malaysia will continue working with republic in trade, investment, new technologies

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MALAYSIA has reiterated that China remains a true friend and comprehensive

strategic partner to the country. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia would continue to work with the republic in various areas, including trade and investment.

"We will also work together in new technologies, including artificial intelligence initiatives, and all related methods that we have discussed over many years," he said in his opening address ahead of a bilateral meeting with the Chinese delegation led by President Xi Jinping.

Xi is on a state visit at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia.

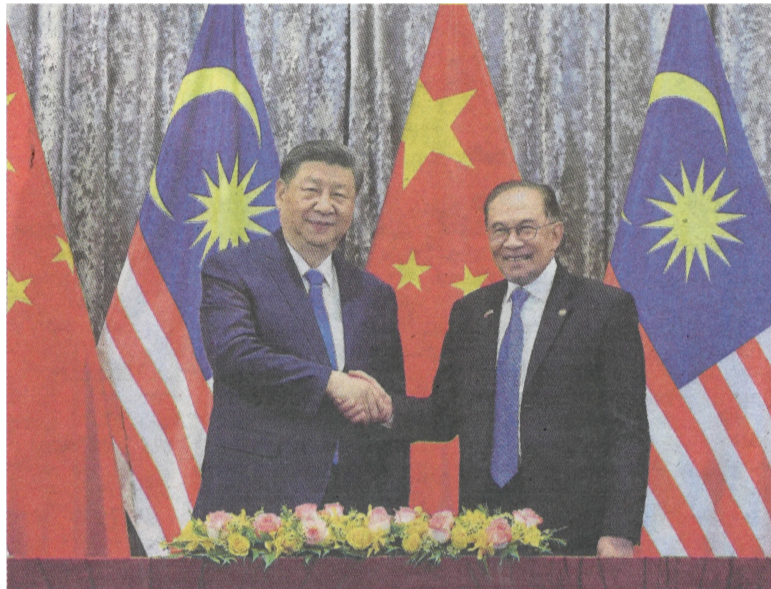
The visit marks Xi's second official trip to the country in 12 years. His last visit was in 2013. Anwar reaffirmed Malaysia's strong relationship with China, one he said was built on a foundation of mutual respect and shared aspirations for development and prosperity.

Reflecting on their discussions in China last year, he praised Xi as a leader with a unique vision, noting his efforts in poverty alleviation and economic advancement.

"On behalf of my colleagues, cabinet and the people of Malaysia, may I warmly welcome you to our country and may I also express a personal view and feeling of how we, Malaysians, look up to China and personally to your leadership.

"As I said to you when we met in China, you exemplify a new type of persona, a leader who talks about growth and investment and economic advancement, who talks about alleviating poverty and has proven his success.

"More importantly, about (your) shared prosperity and civilisation, which is hardly ex-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony at Kompleks Seri Perdana, Putrajaya, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

pressed by any modern leader in this world.

"Once again, I must express thank you for your leadership and your friendship," he said.

Later, Anwar said Malaysia's enduring relationship with China was a partnership grounded not just in trade and investment, but in mutual respect as well.

In his keynote address at the dinner hosted for the Chinese delegation, he said the bond between the two nations extended beyond economic statistics.

"The world may have shifted in many ways, but the friendship between Malaysia and China has remained firm and steadfast, renewed through dialogue and affirmed through action.

"China remains our most significant trading partner, its presence felt in the very arteries of our development.

"From the flow of goods and ideas to the transformation of our energy, infrastructure and innovation. Yet, the true strength of this relationship lies beyond trade figures or tourist statistics.

"It rests on a profound understanding that prosperity, to endure, must be shared and that trust, once cultivated, must be tended with care, patience and commitment," he said.

Anwar also highlighted the unique role Malaysia and China played in fostering civilisational dialogue and global cooperation.

"With China, we have actualised this axiom by holding civilisational dialogues, such as be-

tween Islam and Confucianism, to further strengthen the bonds of understanding.

"This underscores the importance of emphasising our commonalities in the pursuit of shared values of harmony and prosperity.

"These exchanges are all the more significant, considering that there are others out there drumming up the clash of civilisations," he said.

Anwar also said that at a time when multilateralism was under tremendous strain, with some nations abandoning the principle of shared responsibility and others questioning long-standing commitments, China's global initiatives offered a renewed sense of hope.

"They look outwards, not inwards. They speak not of rivalry, but of renewal.

"In some quarters, the rules-based order has been turned on its head. Dialogue has yielded to demands, tariffs are imposed without restraint and the language of cooperation is drowned beneath the noise of threats and coercion.

"What we are witnessing today is not an honest reckoning with the imperfections of globalisation, but a retreat into economic tribalism. Market access is being weaponised.

"What was once a multilateral covenant for shared growth now buckles under the weight of arbitrary disruption and unilateral whim," he said.