

'MUTUAL TRUST, RESPECT'

PM: MALAYSIA, CHINA SUPPORT EACH OTHER

**Xi's visit reinforces
long-standing
friendship,
says Anwar**

QISTINA SALLEHUDDIN
AND SHAHRUL SHAHABUDIN
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

Malaysia and China are inseparable partners, bound by a time-tested relationship rooted in mutual trust, respect and shared aspirations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim underscored this enduring bond by invoking the Malay idiom, *bagai aur dengan tebing*, to illustrate how both nations support and strengthen each other.

In a heartfelt statement following the departure of Chinese President Xi Jinping and his delegation, Anwar expressed hope that this vital relationship would continue to flourish.

"Both countries support and strengthen each other. In the spirit of friendship, these ties will be preserved with sincerity and deep respect," he wrote on Facebook.

Xi's three-day state visit to Malaysia — his first in 12 years —

was at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia.

The visit was marked by the signing of 31 memoranda of understanding between both governments.

Anwar, who hosted a dinner for Xi and his delegation at Seri Perdana on Wednesday, said the visit reinforced the long-standing friendship and strategic cooperation between the two countries.

"Malaysia is honoured to receive this visit and believes that the outcomes of the meetings and exchange of views will pave the way for deeper collaboration and mutual benefits for the people of both countries."

Reflecting on China's global role, Anwar praised Xi's leadership and his principled stance on international cooperation.

"At a time when the world is witnessing shifts in the geopolitical landscape, and some parties are abandoning the principle of collective responsibility, China's global initiatives offer new opportunities for reform and cooperation," he said.

He contrasted this approach with that of other nations, saying how some had chosen to intensify rivalries and weaponise economic tools.

In this context, Anwar said Malaysia viewed China as a rational, stable and principled partner.

"Malaysia values this stability and will continue to stand as a friend, grounded in shared history and guided by a vision for the future."

Quoting another Malay proverb, *air dicincang tidak akan putus*, Anwar likened the Malaysia-China bond to one that remained unbroken despite challenges over time.

"May the Malaysia-China friendship continue to flourish, as deep as the ocean, as steadfast as the stars above and as radiant as the hope that brings a prosperous future."

Since 2009, China has remained Malaysia's largest trading partner for 16 consecutive years.

In 2024, total trade between the two nations was valued at RM484.12 billion, representing 16.8 per cent of Malaysia's total global trade of RM2.879 trillion.

Xi and his delegation departed Malaysia for Cambodia yesterday. The Air China aircraft took off from Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 10.04am, with Anwar and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan present to bid them farewell.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and President Xi Jinping inspecting a guard of honour at Kuala Lumpur International Airport yesterday.