

'VIBRANT MALAYSIA'

XI HAILS STRONG TIES

Chinese president expresses confidence in leadership of king, Anwar

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CHINESE President Xi Jinping has expressed confidence in Malaysia's future under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, as both nations mark a new chapter in their long-standing partnership.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by Anwar during his three-day state visit on Wednesday, Xi said he was heartened to witness Malaysia's progress since his last visit in 2013.

"During my previous visit, I was deeply impressed by Malaysia's natural beauty, rich cultural diversity and warm-hearted people.

"Now, 12 years later, I am truly delighted to see a vibrant Malaysia making great strides in its modernisation journey," he said as reported by Bernama.

"I have no doubt that, under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan

Ibrahim and Prime Minister Anwar, Malaysia will continue to thrive and achieve even greater success in building Malaysia Madani."

Xi highlighted the strength of the bilateral relationship, forged over more than 50 years of diplomatic ties.

"Politically, we respect and trust each other; economically, we enjoy mutually beneficial cooperation; and culturally, we learn from and invigorate one another.

"This relationship is benefiting our people in real and tangible ways."

He added that a new historical chapter had begun in 2023, when Malaysia and China agreed to pursue a shared vision of building a community with a shared future, deepening collaboration in key areas.

Present at the dinner were deputy prime ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

One of the most significant outcomes of Xi's visit was the agreement to establish a Joint Foreign and Defence Dialogue Mechanism — a move aimed at strengthening policy coordination and boosting cooperation in security and defence.

In a joint statement issued by Wisma Putra yesterday, both nations reaffirmed their commitment to resolving disputes in the South China Sea through peaceful means and in accordance with

international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"Both sides expressed concern over actions that could heighten tensions, and agreed to work with Asean member states to implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties, while anticipating the conclusion of a meaningful and effective Code of Conduct by 2026," the statement read.

Malaysia and China also pledged to strengthen strategic coordination, supporting each other's efforts to uphold national sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, and to promote unity, stability, and sustainable development.

On the economic front, both countries committed to deepening cooperation in the digital, green, blue, and tourism economies.

They also agreed to boost collaboration across industrial, supply, value, data, and talent chains, and to implement the Five-Year Programme for Economic and Trade Cooperation (2024 to 2028).

The leaders noted with satisfaction the near thousand-fold increase in bilateral trade since diplomatic relations were established in 1974.

China has remained Malaysia's largest trading partner since 2009.

During the visit, 31 memoranda of understanding were signed between both nations.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Chinese President Xi Jinping watching a performance by Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza during a dinner in Putrajaya on Wednesday. PIC FROM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

People-to-people ties were also recognised as a priority.

The two nations welcomed the recently signed reciprocal visa exemption agreements, expected to facilitate travel and cultural exchanges.

In a lighter moment, the leaders acknowledged the public's affection for the giant pandas at Zoo Negara, describing them as living symbols of the enduring friendship between Malaysia and China.

In Tapah, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan described Xi's openness to sharing high-level technology as a remarkable shift from the country's previous stance.

"In the past, China was very tight-lipped and protective of

certain technologies.

"They didn't want to share. But now, they are offering us access, especially in rare earth technology."

He said this after visiting the Batu Tiga polling district in Ayer Kuning here.

Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the visit had strengthened political and economic ties.

"In the current global environment, Malaysia, as a trading nation, is keen to nurture relationships with countries that share our aspirations.

"This visit has certainly achieved that aim."

Xi and his delegation departed Malaysia for Cambodia yesterday.