



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the 2025 Chinese New Year celebration organised by the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Ipoh yesterday. NSTP PIC BY L. MANIMARAN

'GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL'

PM: REJECT OLD MINDSET ON CHINA TIES

Anwar's response comes in wake of salvo from Trump against BRICS

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on the people to reject what he called a distorted and colonised mindset that assumes Malaysia's strong ties with China, particularly in attracting investments, will align it with the East Asian giant in all matters.

The prime minister said the government's policy was to maintain good relations with all countries, especially those keen to invest in Malaysia, despite ongoing conflicts between major powers.

He said China was a key regional player due to its economic strength, noting that its recent launch of the DeepSeek app had disrupted the artificial intelligence industry.

"In rural areas, some claim we are handing everything over to China. This is a flawed mindset," he said at the 2025 Chinese New Year celebration organised by the Perak Chinese Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry (PCCCI) here yesterday.

"When we had strong ties with the United States, no one complained. When it was with Europe, no one said anything either. This is a colonised mentality.

"Anyone, including China, who wants to invest is welcome. Those who treat us well, we will treat them even better. This is our policy.

"Let's not be trapped in the old ways of thinking, where we rely solely on one country. We will continue fostering good ties with all nations. But if a country has issues with China, that is their problem. Why should it become ours?"

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad, Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang and PCCCI president Datuk Liew Chee Ming.

Anwar said Malaysia must capitalise on its strong relations with China, regardless of tensions between China and the US.

"We are also attracting investments from the US, strengthening ties with the European Union, enhancing relations with BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and maintaining close connections with China.

"For example, I have observed recent advancements in AI, which was once believed to be entirely dominated by the US. However, just three days ago, Chi-

na's breakthrough with DeepSeek stunned the world.

"Yesterday, another breakthrough was announced by Alibaba. This proves China's strength is something we should leverage. That is why we must not be trapped in the outdated thinking of relying on just one country. We must maintain good relations with all nations."

Anwar added that he was set to receive visits from world leaders in the coming weeks.

"We have to schedule them carefully to avoid hosting too many at once. We have already welcomed Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, whom I have asked to be an adviser to my team as Asean chair.

"Next, we will receive visits from the presidents of Uzbekistan and Turkiye by February. We need friends now, so we cannot afford to take sides as we did in the past."

Anwar's comments on Malaysia's relationships with China and BRICS also come on the heels of US President Donald Trump's latest threat against the bloc.

Trump on Thursday warned BRICS member nations against replacing the US dollar as a reserve currency, saying he would impose a 100 per cent tariff, a threat he had first made not long after winning the presidential elections in November.