

# Malaysia, Turkiye must prioritise SMEs, says Anwar

**PUTRAJAYA:** Economic collaborations between Malaysia and Turkiye should prioritise small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said while large-scale collaborations in sectors like petroleum and gas were important, the countries must not overlook the significant role of SMEs.

“SMEs, as many of you represent today, are the backbone and pillar of our economies. In Malaysia, they constitute the vast majority,” he said at a business forum at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday.

Present was Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

“We want both the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia and the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkiye, as well as the trade min-



*Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaking at a business forum in Putrajaya yesterday as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim listens in the audience. NSTP PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH*

istries of both countries, to focus on this second tier — SMEs.”

He said SMEs in Malaysia and Turkiye had enormous potential for growth and should be given special attention.

“We should have a forum or a dedicated platform to address the specific needs of this sector, focusing on capacity building, innovation and ensuring that SMEs receive priority.”

He said Malaysia’s industrial master plan included priorities for SMEs, including a strategic semiconductor programme.

“While we talk about large multinationals and conglomerates, we must recognise that our success depends on focusing on

SMEs, particularly in terms of supply chains.

“We can only succeed if we give SMEs the chance to expand and thrive.”

Anwar said Malaysia’s and Turkiye’s ties were not only grounded in economic interests, but also in friendship and trust.

“There is huge potential in both Malaysia and Turkiye. For example, Turkiye’s strength in defence and Malaysia’s strength in semiconductors. There’s also Turkiye’s strength in tourism and food technology and our strength in penetrating markets in Asean and the Asian region.

“Therefore, we should collaborate effectively,” he added.