



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at a press conference at the Seri Perdana Complex in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

## BOOSTING TIES

# MALAYSIA, TURKIYE EXPAND COOPERATION

This will help nations achieve trade investment target of US\$10 billion, says Anwar

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**M**ALAYSIA and Turkiye will strengthen bilateral relations by exploring various sectors, including semiconductors, agri-commodities, electronics and defence, to achieve the trade investment target of US\$10 billion.

At a joint press conference with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said there was no reason why developing and emerging economies like Malaysia and Turkiye cannot increase trade with each other.

"President Erdogan has suggested that we should enhance trade investments beyond US\$5 billion to US\$10 billion, which is, of course, very ambitious.

"However, I believe my colleagues and the commitment you have shown will be able to facilitate (this).

"Therefore, we need to work in various fields, semiconductor, agri-commodities, electrical and electronics, food and beverage and defence," he said at the Seri Perdana Complex.

Anwar reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to enhancing collaboration with Turkiye in the aviation sector, highlighting the success of existing partnerships.

He expressed gratitude for the trust Turkiye placed in Malaysia's

airport authority, Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd, to continue its collaboration with the Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen Airport.

He said Malaysia was committed to working closely with local authorities, construction companies and management teams to ensure continued success.

In a joint statement later, both leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in combating crime, particularly transnational and organised crime, as well as terrorism in all its forms.

They said exchange of information and experiences were key to tackling these issues.

Energy security was also highlighted as a priority for both nations, with both leaders recognising its critical importance to the global agenda. The leaders also discussed opportunities for cooperation in energy transition.

"The two sides emphasised the potential for cooperation in the areas of hydrocarbon and renewable energy projects, and also believed in the need for closer dialogue on critical raw minerals, which is vital to realising future clean energy projects."

At the press conference, Anwar said Malaysia had proposed that Turkiye be made a dialogue partner at this year's Asean Summit.

He said while Asean had dialogue partners from Asia and the West, such as Canada, the European Union, South Korea and China, there was a need to extend the partnership to Turkiye.

"I have consulted Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan to ensure this matter is raised with Asean heads of government.

"Our aim is to ensure fair treatment and adequate participation, as we have accorded to other countries, by extending the same status to Turkiye as an Asean di-

alogue partner at the very least. This will be given priority in our discussions moving forward."

Erdogan reaffirmed Turkiye's strong commitment to enhancing ties with Asian nations and welcomed Malaysia's chairing of Asean this year.

He expressed confidence that Malaysia would advance Asean's vision for economic integration and sustainability.

Anwar said Asean and Turkiye had agreed to work together on the rebuilding of Gaza and to provide humanitarian assistance.

He said Asean was committed to supporting the reconstruction of Gaza and ensuring that the help provided is sufficient.

He said Malaysia and Turkiye believed the issue of Gaza and Palestine required collaboration and could not be addressed in isolation.

Anwar said this was because there was inconsistency in the implementation of the ceasefire, with Israel's continuing intransigence and aggression.

"As I have said, this is colonisation, a project of colonisation. I mean, how much negotiation can you have when the coloniser has not withdrawn?

"Secondly, of course, there is also an issue of politics, of dispossession, when you rob people's land, people's houses, people's property.

"Therefore, there are two issues here we have to resolve. The immediate humanitarian assistance, but also a long-term just resolution to the problem."

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with children who greeted them at the Seri Perdana Complex in Putrajaya yesterday.