

DIRECT FLIGHTS TO BAHRAIN MOOTED

Crown prince asks Malaysia to consider boosting connectivity, says PM

MANAMA (Bahrain)

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the proposal to reinstate direct flights between

Malaysia and Bahrain is being discussed.

He said this was raised during his courtesy call on Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman Hamad Al Khalifa at the Gudaibiya Palace here on Wednesday.

"There is potential here. We will request Gulf Air to consider a direct flight. The crown prince mentioned this and asked us to look into increasing flight connectivity.

"Whether it is Malaysia Airlines or other airlines, we are assessing this," Bernama quoted Anwar as saying during a question-and-answer session at a dinner with the Malaysian diaspora.

Anwar arrived in Bahrain on Wednesday for an official visit at the invitation of Crown Prince Salman. Bahrain is home to 297 Malaysians, including three pur-



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suing higher education.

Anwar said the crown prince had indicated his intention to visit Kuala Lumpur in May for the Asean-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit and the Asean-GCC+China Summit, following an invitation extended during their meeting.

"Insyallah, we will boost cooperation in all sectors, including education, artificial intelligence (AI), tourism, the economy, investment, finance, Islamic banking and halal industry."

At the dinner, he urged Malaysians abroad, especially professionals, not to be trapped by outdated mindsets and to always seek opportunities to improve themselves.

He said the world today demanded positive change and each person must think of ways to contribute to the country.

"Do we want to remain stuck in the old ways with all the excesses, greed and corruption or do we say

'enough is enough' because this country has tremendous potential for success?"

"For me, the main message is that professionals and entrepreneurs, many of whom are here, have exposure both in Malaysia and overseas.

"Once you've gone abroad, don't close yourself off from the world."

The dinner was attended by some 300 people.

Present were Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Dr Zulkifli Hasan and Malaysian ambassador to Bahrain Shazryll Zahiran.

Anwar said the world was focused on the future of AI and other challenges.

"We have the opportunity to influence change and embrace transformations. The best among us are those who can think beyond that.

"People like you, young professionals with experience in Malaysia and abroad, have new exposure and new perspectives."

He called on the Malaysian diaspora to promote the country to the world.

"You should also campaign for Malaysia by promoting its tourism — places like Kota Kinabalu, Penang, Kelantan and other destinations with their own unique offerings."