

# TALKS ON NEW ENERGY WITH JAPAN PM

Anwar to discuss trade, investment with Shigeru Ishiba today

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**A** PROPOSAL to make Malaysia, particularly Sarawak, a new regional energy hub, is anticipated to be one of the topics discussed at a meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar

Ibrahim and his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba today.

Anwar said yesterday the new plan, led by Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, is a critical initiative in the energy transition sector.

“We will discuss key issues, including trade and investment.

“A major focus will be on a new and critical energy transition plan involving the Sarawak premier, Petros and a collaboration with Petronas.

“We hope these talks will establish Malaysia, especially Sarawak, as a regional energy hub,” he said in his keynote address at the Malaysian Economic Forum here.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli, Abang Johari and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

Ishiba arrived yesterday for a two-day official visit.

Ishiba, during his trip, is expected to hold talks with Anwar and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.

This will mark Ishiba’s first time abroad for bilateral talks since assuming office in October.

Anwar and Ishiba are expected to review the progress of Malaysia-Japan bilateral rela-

tions, particularly in made and investment, human resource development, and energy cooperation.

They are expected to exchange views on regional and international issues, including the situation in the Middle East, before holding a joint press conference, said Wisma Putra.

Malaysia’s ties with Japan have grown from strength to strength with the elevation of bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership in December 2023.

Anwar had said that Sarawak has a huge potential to become a powerhouse in the new energy hub, thus boosting foreign in-

vestment confidence, while discussions with other countries saw Sarawak emerging as Malaysia’s energy hub

Abang Johari previously said the Sarawak government was optimistic about its ability to become a powerhouse in electricity production and supply to neighbouring countries.

He added that this was proven with the supply of electricity to West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Abang Johari was also quoted as saying that the Sarawak government believes that the expertise of its people in electricity and new energy will position the state as a major hub in the Asean region.