



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed Zayed Al-Nahyan (second from right) at the signing of the Malaysia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in Abu Dhabi yesterday. With them are Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz (left) and UAE International Trade Minister Dr Thani Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi.  
PIC FROM ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK ORGANISER

### FIRST FTA WITH GCC COUNTRY

# 'UAE PACT A CATALYST FOR GULF STATES, TOO'

Free trade deal with UAE will boost trade, investment relations with other Gulf states, says PM

#### ABU DHABI

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Malaysia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (MY-UAE CEPA) will serve as a catalyst for stronger trade and investment relations, not just between the two countries, but also with other Gulf states.

He said the MY-UAE CEPA is Malaysia's first free trade agreement (FTA) with a country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). "The MY-UAE CEPA will open more opportunities for deeper economic cooperation, including the reduction or removal of tariffs, and boost market access, which will spur exports and generate new investment opportunities for major sectors."

Anwar and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed Zayed Al-Nahyan yesterday witnessed the signing of the MY-UAE CEPA on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) 2025 at the Abu Dhabi Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) here.

The MY-UAE CEPA was signed by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz and UAE International Trade Minister Dr Thani Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi.



**NAJMUDDIN NAJIB**

Earlier, Anwar paid a courtesy call on Sheikh Mohammed. Anwar and other heads of state and government later attended the ADSW 2025 opening ceremony, graced by Sheikh Mohammed.

The MY-UAE CEPA covers areas such as trade in goods and services, investment facilitation, digital trade, micro, small and medium enterprises and economic cooperation.

In 2023, the UAE was Malaysia's second-largest trading partner in the West Asia region, with bilateral trade increasing by 5.4 per cent to US\$8.67 billion (RM39.63 billion) compared with 2022.

Malaysia's main exports to the UAE include electrical and electronic products, jewellery, palm oil and palm oil-based agricultural products, palm oil-based manufactured products and processed foods.

Major imports comprise crude petroleum, petroleum products, jewellery, metal manufactures and chemical products.

At ADSW 2025, Anwar attended the Youth 4 Sustainability Forum and Hub, where he led the Youth Changemakers Majlis discussion with youth leaders, policymakers and global influencers to address sustainability challenges.

At the ADSW Plenary Session,

Anwar participated in a dialogue titled 'Asean's Interconnected Future: Linking Energy, Trade & Prosperity'.

Leaders present at the ADSW 2025 include Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Kenya President William Ruto, Nigeria President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Rwanda President Paul Kagame, Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

The prime minister also held a meeting with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on the sidelines of the event.

Anwar is on a three-day working visit to Abu Dhabi at the invitation of UAE Vice-President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Rashid Al Maktoum, who is also the ruler of Dubai.

On Monday, he held one-on-one meetings with leaders of the UAE's largest sovereign wealth fund companies, including Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Mubadala Investment Company and energy giant Masdar.

He also had an audience with Sheikh Mohammed at the Za'abeel Palace in Dubai.

The leaders discussed bolstering bilateral ties and exploring opportunities in renewable energy, food and energy security, artificial intelligence and data centres, as well as regional and global issues of mutual concern.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed Rashid Al Maktoum at Istana Za'abeel in Dubai on Monday.