

5-DAY TRIP

Anwar: Packed agenda for UK visit to enhance ties

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said his five-day working visit to the United Kingdom this week aims to strengthen bilateral ties and explore new trade and investment opportunities.

Anwar is in the UK at the invitation of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

He said the visit marked a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries, following Starmer's appointment as prime minister in July 2024.

The prime minister said there was a packed agenda ahead for him and Malaysia's delegation, which included discussions on trade and investment initiatives, especially after the UK's entry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Other key areas include Asean cooperation, global issues and the situations in Myanmar and Palestine.

"May all our plans in the UK be guided by Him and bring benefits to our people and nation, God willing," he wrote in a Facebook post.

Anwar's UK visit follows his recent working trip to the United Arab Emirates from Jan 12 to 14.

His tour will continue with stops in Belgium, before culminating in the World Economic Fo-

rum Annual Meeting 2025 in Davos, Switzerland.

Bernama reported that the prime minister arrived in the UK, Malaysia's fourth largest trading partner among European nations, at 10.50pm local time on Tuesday (6.50am on Wednesday in Malaysia).

On hand to welcome Anwar were Malaysian High Commissioner to the UK and Northern Ireland Datuk Zakri Jaafar and Defence Attache Brigadier-General Datuk Safwan @ Asri Ismail, as well as the British foreign secretary's special representative Richard Wildash and Charge d'Affaires at the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, David Wallace.

This is marks Anwar's first visit to the UK since taking office in November 2022.

During the visit, Anwar will be accompanied by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir and Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

Yesterday, Anwar held a bilateral meeting with Starmer to review the progress of Malaysia-UK bilateral relations and discuss efforts to strengthen collaboration in trade and investment.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim holding a pre-council meeting with (from left) Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir in London yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

The two leaders were expected to discuss matters related to higher education, climate change and renewable energy, agriculture and tourism, among others.

Both prime ministers were also expected to touch on regional and international issues and exchange views on Asean-UK Dialogue Relations.

According to Zakri, as Asean chair for 2025, Anwar will also highlight Malaysia's priorities and Asean's efforts in addressing regional and global challenges.

During his stay in London, the prime minister's schedule includes a meeting with the Speak-

er of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, as well as delivering a keynote address at Invest-Malaysia.

Anwar will also host a roundtable and one-on-one business sessions with industry leaders, and officiate the Malaysia Auditorium at the London School of Economics (LSE) before giving a special lecture.

A memorandum of understanding on the Malaysia-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee and other Supporting Mechanisms will also be signed during the visit.

Anwar is also scheduled to attend the launch of a solar farm

project by Tenaga Nasional Bhd Malaysia, a product launch by YTL Group UK, and visit the Battersea Power Station, Malaysia's largest investment involving public funds in Europe.

Trade and investment remain key pillars of Malaysia-UK relations, with total trade amounting to RM15.30 billion.

Total exports were recorded at RM7.83 billion, while total imports stood at RM7.47 billion compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

On Jan 19, the prime minister will depart for Brussels to continue his international engagements.