



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week on Tuesday. BERNAMA PIC

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT INKED

MALAYSIA, UAE TO BOLSTER STRATEGIC TIES

PM says meetings with leaders will see greater cooperation in politics, economy and defence

ABU DHABI

MALAYSIA and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to boost

strategic cooperation in politics, economy, defence, renewable energy (RE) and nuclear, tourism, sustainability and artificial intelligence.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said this was the outcome of his meetings with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed AL Nahyan and UAE Vice-President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Anwar said his presence at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) also gave him the opportunity to deliver his views on Malaysia's and Asean's roles in promoting sustainability.

He said his audience with Sheikh Mohammed was an opportunity to strengthen bilateral ties.

"What we achieved was the Malaysia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which will enable us to elevate bilateral cooperation, including investment and trade.

"The UAE is the first country



NAJMUDDIN NAJIB

from the Gulf Cooperation Council to sign a free trade agreement with us.

"We see this as a very good start," he told Malaysian media at the end of his visit on Tuesday.

He said his meetings with UAE sovereign wealth funds — such as Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), Mubadala and Abu Dhabi Future Energy Co PJSC (Masdar) — were productive.

He said Malaysia welcomed Masdar's cooperation and participation in the energy sector.

On Monday, he met Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, chief executive officer of Masdar.

He said the government assured Masdar it would facilitate its investment plans in Malaysia.

These include joint ventures with local companies for green energy projects, infrastructure, battery storage, and strengthening the energy grid.

Anwar also had a discussion with Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, managing director of ADIA, one of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds. "This involved ADIA's participation in the restructuring of Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB).

"Their participation is key giv-

en their experience in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, London Heathrow Airport and Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport.

"We discussed ADIA's close cooperation with Khazanah Nasional.

"The ADIA leadership, as well as the country's leadership, regarded the (MAHB) project as a major one, which they would extend all support to Khazanah."

The discussion with ADIA, he said, involved projects related to the New Industrial Master Plan 2030, the Madani Economy framework, as well as projects in the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (J-S SEZ), such as advanced manufacturing.

"It also includes infrastructure development, green technology, RE, logistics, healthcare, the digital economy, and education."

On the meeting with Mubadala, he said it revolved around liquefied natural gas, which also involved Petronas and Gentari.

They also discussed the development of gas-related infrastructure, as well as exploring the development of value chains, such as blue hydrogen and carbon and capture storage (CCS) in Kuantan in Pahang, Kerteh in Terengganu, and Sarawak.

"We also touched on the new Kerian Integrated Green Industrial Park, project on renewable energy, as well as the JS-SEZ," he said.

On the Asean and GCC Summit in May, he said Abu Dhabi ruler Sheikh Mohamed had given his commitment to attend with other GCC heads of state and governments.