

GLOBAL CHINESE NEW YEAR

# PM: TIES WITH CHINA GO BEYOND TRADE

**They are rooted in respect for each other's cultures, says Anwar**

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**M**ALAYSIA'S relationship with China goes beyond trade and investments, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He added that it is also rooted in mutual understanding and respect for each other's cultures and civilisations.

Speaking at the Global Chinese New Year celebration on Saturday night, Anwar said this aspect of Malaysia-China ties must be nurtured alongside economic collaboration.

"During my conversation with

President Xi Jinping, we discussed not only economic, but also the need to build this friendship on trust and mutual respect.

"As the Chinese proverb goes, after traversing mountains and rivers, we arrive at a bright village surrounded by willows and flowers."

He said this proverb captured the essence of Malaysia's relationship with China.

He said China's emphasis on promoting cultural respect aligned with Malaysia's principle of inclusivity, which ensures that every Malaysian has a place in the country.

Anwar, who was clad in a traditional Chinese tangzhuang shirt in red, arrived about 8.30pm to warm reception from more than 300 guests.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing, and Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul.

Present were China's Culture

and Tourism Minister Sun Yeli and China's ambassador to Malaysia Ouyang Yujing.

Anwar said the Spring Festival, known in Malaysia as Chinese New Year, served as a testament to the unity of Malaysia's multicultural society.

"This celebration brings together people from all communities, cultures and regions in Malaysia. It reflects our commitment to harmony and mutual appreciation.

"Together, we have moved beyond uncertainties to embrace a future of partnership and shared aspirations."

He added that local initiatives — such as cultural performances, projection mapping and calligraphy exhibitions in Melaka and Penang — were examples of how Malaysia embraces diverse traditions.

"These events foster cultural exchanges and strengthen our bonds, not just within the nation but also with our international friends."