

RM11bil in potential investments

Anwar's five-day working visit to UK raises business interest

LONDON: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit to the United Kingdom has attracted RM11bil in potential investments across various sectors, including renewable energy and the digital economy.

Speaking to the Malaysian media here, the Prime Minister said the export potential to be generated over the next five years amounts to RM500mil, encompassing products such as aircraft equipment and components, furniture, as well as food and beverage.

This development, he added, reflects strong international confidence in Malaysia's economy and signifies the growing cooperation between Malaysia and the UK government.

"There has been a noticeable surge in interest and readiness to invest during discussions with business leaders, facilitated by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida), Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade), and Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry," he said.

During his five-day working trip to Britain, Anwar also met with several major UK corporations, including Standard



One big family: Anwar posing for wefies with attendees during a meet-and-greet session with the Malaysian diaspora in London. - Photo courtesy of Anwar's Facebook page

Chartered and Jaguar Land Rover, reported Bernama.

He said the UK government, led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, is set to strengthen its cooperation and relations with Malaysia, with plans for a visit from UK Development Minister Anneliese Dodds to Malaysia next month, followed by Indo-Pacific Minister

Catherine West in March.

"This indicates the commitment to invest RM11bil across various sectors, including automotive, digital, renewable energy, banking, real estate and petrochemicals," he added.

Anwar's visit marked his first trip to the United Kingdom as prime minister, where he met

with Starmer at No. 10 Downing Street on Wednesday.

After the meeting, Starmer posted on X, describing the relationship between the United Kingdom and Malaysia as "close and historic", emphasising that "from investment to trade and education, the UK's ties with Malaysia are stronger than ever".

Anwar said trade between the two nations is expected to grow, particularly with the United Kingdom's inclusion in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

"Through the CPTPP, Malaysian companies' participation in contracts, professional services, and the export of goods from Malaysia will be easier.

"Major companies such as YTL, Tenaga Nasional, Gamuda and EcoWorld, which have significant investments and projects in the United Kingdom, will also benefit from it," he added.

At a separate function, Anwar said Malaysia believes it is too early to ascertain whether there would be tensions between China and the United States during Donald Trump's second term in office.

Malaysia and Asean, he added, have been engaging closely with both countries for decades, and stressed that Malaysia will continue to maintain its independence in its relations with other nations.

Speaking at a dinner and engagement session with over 700 members of the Malaysian diaspora here, Anwar said there could be some minor volatility in view of the current state of relations between the two nations.

"But I am sure we will be able to engage with both China and the United States."

Trump is set to be inaugurated as the 47th US President tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Anwar will undertake a two-day working visit to Belgium today - his first to the European nation since assuming office.

After that, Anwar will depart for Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum in Davos.