

**LONDON:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is on a five-day working visit to the United Kingdom (UK), Malaysia's third largest trading partner in Europe, starting today.

Malaysian High Commissioner to the UK and Northern Ireland Datuk Zakri Jaafar said Anwar's visit is at the invitation of his counterpart Keir Starmer, who has been in office since July last year.

Zakri said the visit is the first by Anwar since becoming prime minister and is expected to strengthen bilateral relations between both nations.

He said it would be utilised to explore new initiatives in trade and investment following the UK's participation in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Anwar, who arrived here from Abu Dhabi, was accompanied by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir and Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

Zakri said Anwar would meet Starmer today at No 10, Downing Street, and the two leaders are expected to discuss various bilateral issues as well as the situation in Myanmar and Palestine.

He said the government, led by

# PM on five-day working visit to UK

**> Trip expected to strengthen bilateral relations, explore new initiatives in trade and investment between both countries**

Starmer, has suspended the sale of some weapons to Israel and requested accelerated humanitarian aid to Gaza and the West Bank.

He added that on Thursday, Anwar would meet Speaker of the House of Commons Lindsay Hoyle.

Zakri said Malaysia would also use the opportunity to discuss the focus and direction of Malaysia's Asean chairmanship.

He added that as of November 2024, total trade between the two countries amounted to RM15.3 billion.

Zakri said Malaysia's total exports to the UK have decreased by 4% to RM7.83 billion compared with the

previous year while total imports decreased by 3.4% to RM7.47 billion, with the total trade balance in favour of Malaysia, at RM225.3 million.

He said both parties would witness the exchange of an MoU between the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry and the UK Department for Business and Trade.

Zakri said Anwar would also continue efforts to attract investments through a round table meeting with captains of industry in the UK, involving 40 local companies, Bernama reported.

He added that Anwar would hold an engagement session with CEOs of GLICs and attend the

InvestMalaysia programmes organised by Bursa Malaysia, the launch of a solar farm project by TNB Malaysia and a product launch by YTL Group UK.

"All these programmes are among efforts to highlight the country's ability to realise the aspirations of the Madani Economic Framework."

He will also visit the Battersea Power Station, which is Malaysia's largest investment involving public funds in Europe, deliver a special public lecture titled "The Adaptive Edge: Malaysia's Global Strategy in an Uncertain Era" at the London School of Economics (LSE) and inaugurate the Malaysian Auditorium there.

The auditorium was named the Malaysian Auditorium in appreciation of the efforts by the LSE Malaysian Branch alumni, who are constantly active in community affairs in Malaysia and the UK.