

M'sia, UK to benefit from CPTPP accord: PM

> Agreement facilitates trade and investments, allows tariffs for products by member countries to be reduced to zero

LONDON: The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) trade agreement will be a critical vehicle to expand and facilitate trade and investment between Malaysia and the United Kingdom (UK), said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"I expressed my appreciation to the UK premier for successfully entering the CPTPP agreement. It takes serious political commitment on the part of the UK and Malaysia, focusing on economic fundamentals in the interest of both nations to promote free trade," he said on Wednesday.

Malaysia ratified the CPTPP in October 2024, joining Peru, Japan, Singapore, Chile,

New Zealand and Vietnam in doing so, while the UK formally joined last December. Under this framework, tariffs for products by member countries will be reduced to zero.

Anwar was speaking at the launch of the YTL Group's Brabazon New Town development in Bristol, the largest city in the Southwest of England.

The Bristol Brabazon development is set to transform the historic Filton Airfield site into a Copenhagen-inspired project that will allow people to access the essential services they need, which are workplaces, schools, shops, public transport, healthcare and green spaces, within a 15-minute radius of their home.

Besides the 6,500 high-quality sustainable homes, it will also house three new schools and an urban park, the largest to be built in the Southwest in over 50 years.

He said by participating in overseas ventures, Malaysian businesses could deepen their global market ties, contributing to Malaysia's aspirations of expanding its trade footprint through international frameworks such as the CPTPP.

Anwar, who is here on a five-day working visit, is 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.

Meanwhile, Malaysia and the UK are quite optimistic about securing a settlement on the issue of Palestine and Gaza as soon as possible.

Anwar said the matter was discussed during his meeting with his counterpart, Sir Keir Starmer, at No. 10 Downing Street on Wednesday, Bernama reported.

"We discussed the resolution of the Palestine and Gaza issue, with the final (resolution) of them achieving the two-state solution. But prior to that, an immediate ceasefire," he told the media after the meeting.

Anwar's criticism of Western countries' lack of action against Israel's atrocities in Gaza has garnered support from prominent figures across various fields globally.

The government led by Starmer, which came to power six months ago, has suspended the sale of certain weapons to Israel and called for accelerated humanitarian aid to Gaza and the West Bank.