

PM starts official visit to Italy, France and Brazil

NEW STRAITS TIMES

01 JUL 2025

pg. 4

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will undertake an official visit to Italy, France and Brazil from today until July 7. The trip includes his participation in the 17th BRICS Summit.

He begins with a three-day of visit to Italy as part of Malaysia's efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and promote economic cooperation on the global stage.

Malaysia's ambassador to Italy, Datuk Zahid Rastam, said Anwar's visit was at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The visit is expected to explore new trade initiatives and investment in defence, energy and agro-commodities.

"The two leaders (Anwar and Meloni) are expected to highlight the commitment of both countries in strengthening two-way relations more comprehensively," he told Malaysian reporters from Rome yesterday.

Anwar will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Khaled Nordin and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz.

Meanwhile, in a press briefing yesterday, Anwar's senior press

secretary, Tunku Nashrul Abaidah, said the visits aimed to strengthen Malaysia's diplomatic ties and trade relations with the respective nations.

He said these three markets collectively recorded bilateral trade valued of US\$11.14 billion last year.

"The visits present opportunities for rapid growth in sectors such as the economy, culture, technology, and education."

In France, Anwar is scheduled to meet with President Emmanuel Macron, with discussions focusing on trade, technology, and education.

In addition to a roundtable with France's industrial giants, Anwar will also engage with local Muslim leaders, meet the Malaysian diaspora in France, and deliver a public lecture at Sorbonne University on July 4.

From July 5 to 7, the prime minister will be in Rio de Janeiro to attend the 17th BRICS Summit at the invitation of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

"Malaysia's role as a BRICS partner country and Asean chair for 2025 will emphasise the importance of multilateralism based on law, governance of artificial intelligence, climate action, and global health, representing the aspirations of over 650 million Asean citizens," said Tunku Nashrul.