

RM8.13b potential investments from Italy, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has secured potential investment worth RM8.13 billion in several sectors, including petrochemicals, machinery and equipment via bilateral meetings held as part of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Italy.

The prime minister said potential investments were also secured in the electrical and electronics sector, as well as oil and gas services and equipment.

Malaysia, meanwhile, generated RM425 million in potential exports for oleochemical products, biofuel feed and livestock food additives.

The bilateral meetings involved 41 Italian companies from the manufacturing, services and trade sectors, as well as government agencies.

Anwar said several key projects between Malaysia and Italy were reaffirmed during his meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

"In my meeting with the Italian prime minister, which was the main highlight, Prime Minister Meloni and I reaffirmed several projects that are under discussion.

"An interesting development is Italy's wish to elevate bilateral ties, as well as those between the European Union (EU) and Asean,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with his Italian counterpart, Giorgia Meloni, upon his arrival at Chigi Palace in Rome yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

as they see Asean's potential as a key driver in regional activities and economic development.

"As we know, we achieved several framework agreements on economic activity. (This in-

cludes) a project between Petronas and ENI, an Italy-based company known for its strength in biochemicals and carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS)," he said at a press con-

ference with Malaysian media yesterday.

Anwar was accorded a guard of honour upon his arrival at Chigi Palace, the official residence of his Italian counterpart.

He was received by Meloni before the national anthems of both countries were played.

Meloni then introduced her delegation, which included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

During the talks, Anwar also conveyed Malaysia's firm position on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"We expressed our gratitude for Italy's agreement and clarity in its statement urging a halt to the attacks on Gaza and allowing humanitarian aid access to the area," he said.

Anwar extended an invitation to Meloni to visit Kuala Lumpur during the Asean Summit with Dialogue Partners in October.

In his discussion with Tajani, they addressed trade, investment and EU-Asean cooperation, while also reiterating Malaysia's position on Gaza, Iran and Israel.

"We reiterated our firm stance on ensuring justice in response to Israel's aggression in Gaza and the provocations against Iran, which led to Iran's retaliatory actions," he said.

"Nonetheless, our focus was on the pursuit of peace to ensure regional security."

Anwar is on an official visit to Italy, France and Brazil beginning Tuesday.