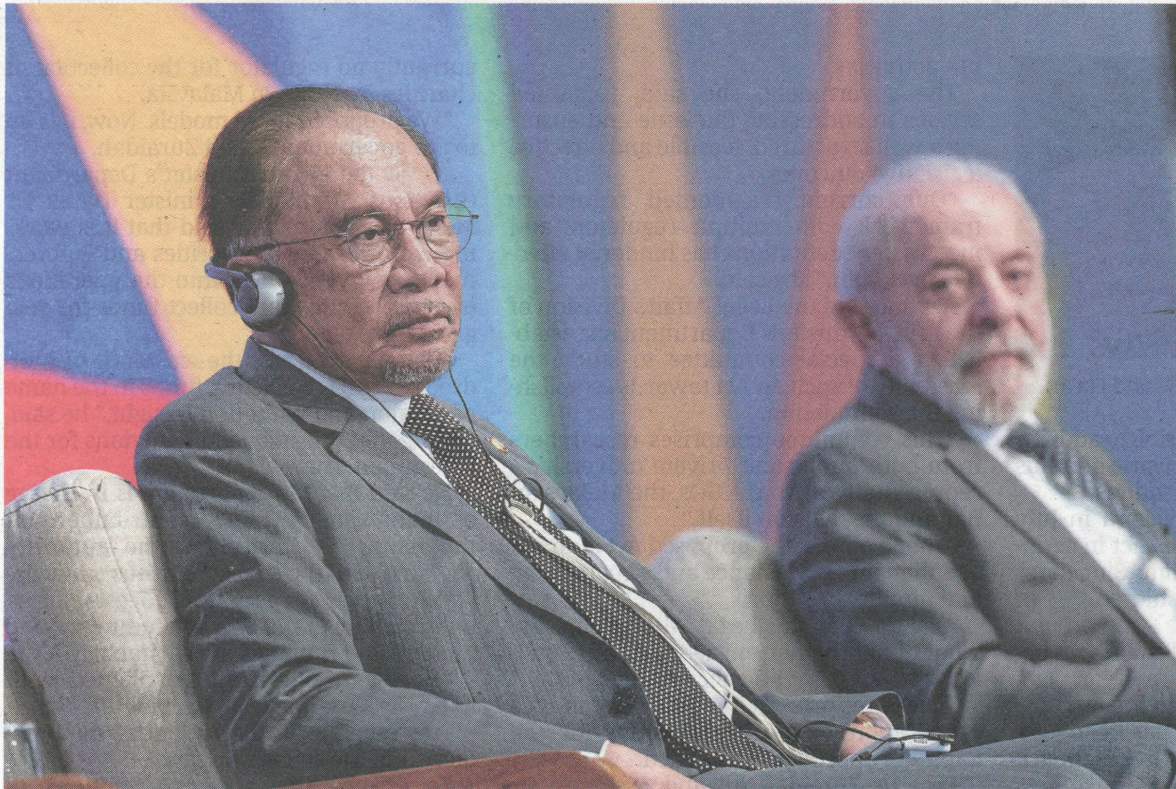


Joining hands for global resilience

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BRICS and Asean members must strengthen strategic cooperation, says Anwar



Meeting of minds: Anwar and Lula da Silva at the BRICS Business Forum in Rio de Janeiro. — Photo courtesy of PMO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Developing nations should no longer be considered marginal players in the global system as the Global South has risen to possess its own strength in technology, trade, leadership, and world morals, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said today, BRICS has moved beyond political rhetorics and is in fact a coalition of political power, economy and civil society that moves together in demanding for a global system that is more fair and just.

“BRICS’ uniqueness lies in the active participation of the private sector, women, youth and society, making the struggle not just an elite cause but a movement that is collective, inclusive and resilient,” he said at the BRICS Business Forum yesterday.

The Prime Minister said that as Asean Chair, Malaysia shares this aspiration.

“We in South-East Asia fight for multilateralism, strengthen intra-Asean trade and pioneer the use of local currency in cross border transactions.

“This is a concrete move

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From Rio de Janeiro

towards a financial system that is more stable and free of unilateral domination,” he said.

Anwar said BRICS and Asean members must also strengthen strategic cooperation, including boost trade and investment with developing nations.

“I also call for major reforms towards global institutions such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organisation to reflect current realities and the need of developing countries, and not be trapped in an obsolete post World War II structure,” he said.

BRICS 2025 Summit, said the

Prime Minister, should not be merely a continuity of past efforts, but rather, be the point of new beginnings.

“With political leadership that is visionary, public sector that is progressive and unity among the Global South, we have a real opportunity to re-shape the global landscape,” he said.

Anwar landed here last night, the third and final leg of his official visit and working trip to three cities.

At Galeao Air Force Base here, he was received by the Acting Head of Mission of Malaysia to Brazil Datuk Mohammad Ali Selamat and Brazil’s Trade Promotion, Science, Technology, Innovation and Culture Secretary Ambassador Laudemar Gonçalves de Aguiar Neto.

Anwar arrived at 5.41am local time (4.41pm Malaysian time) yesterday after a 12-hour flight from Paris where he completed a two-day official visit.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, is in Brazil at the invitation of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

What is BRICS?

BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation originally formed by Brazil, Russia, India, China and later South Africa. It aims to promote multipolar global governance, economic cooperation among emerging economies and alternatives to Western-dominated institutions like the IMF and World Bank.

The acronym was coined by economist Jim O’Neill in 2001 and formalised as a diplomatic grouping in 2009.

What does BRICS do?

Key initiatives include:

- Establishing the New Development Bank for infrastructure and development projects.
- Setting up BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement as a financial safety net for members.
- The launch of BRICS Pay, a standalone payment system designed to boost trade and financial exchanges using local currencies across member nations.
- Issuing joint statements on global issues like AI, climate and multilateralism.

How many members are in BRICS?

As of 2025 BRICS has 11 full members:



What is BRICS+?

BRICS+ refers to the expanded format that includes partner countries. As of July 2025, Malaysia is a BRICS Partner Country, alongside others like:



What’s the latest with BRICS?

The 17th BRICS Summit is currently underway in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from July 6 to 7. The highlights include:

Malaysia’s first participation as a BRICS Partner Country

Focus on AI ethics, climate action and global health

Push for de-dollarisation and reform of global governance