

# AirAsia-Airbus upgrade fuels travel hub

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**aspiration**

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**PARIS:** AirAsia's acquisition of A321XLR aircraft from Airbus will strengthen the airline's operational capabilities for short- and medium-haul routes, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister, who witnessed the signing of the purchase agreement for the aircraft between AirAsia and Airbus here, said:

"This acquisition not only expands the flight network but supports Malaysia's aspiration to emerge as a leading aviation hub in the Asian region.

"I also witnessed the exchange of a memorandum of understanding between 3P Capital Adviser and Ardian, a leading private investment firm from France, in an effort to explore investment opportunities in the private market," he said after carrying out one-on-one business meetings with several companies here.

Anwar said this initiative had the potential to broaden Malaysians' access to alternative investments.

In a meeting with Imerys, an industrial minerals processing company that has been operating in Malaysia for over 25 years, Anwar was informed of their commitment to expand operations and support the development of a high-value and environmentally friendly manufacturing sector in the country.

"I also met with Arkema, a global leader in specialty chemicals, which is currently assessing the potential for new investments in Malaysia.

"This could create more high-skilled jobs, accelerate technology transfer, and strengthen Malaysia's position as a key bioeconomy hub in the Asian region," he added.