

Anwar wraps up Italy visit after meeting counterpart

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ROME: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wrapped up his three-day working visit to Italy with a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni at Palazzo Chigi yesterday.

During the meeting, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations through more comprehensive cooperation.

Both sides discussed a range of issues encompassing bilateral cooperation in sectors such as trade and investment, defence, digital, renewable energy, environment and agro-commodities.

The discussions covered people-to-people

cooperation, including education, cultural exchanges, tourism as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern, such as the situation in the Middle East.

Anwar was accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

Malaysia's Ambassador to Italy Datuk Zahid Rastam was also present.

Anwar arrived in the capital on Tuesday as part of his visits to Italy, France and Brazil to strengthen bilateral relations and promote

economic cooperation at the global level.

In 2024, total trade between Malaysia and Italy recorded a 2% increase to RM14.61 billion compared with 2023.

Italy was Malaysia's fifth-largest trading partner and the third-largest importer of Malaysian palm oil among European Union member states in 2024.

Anwar is scheduled to depart for Paris, where he will meet with French President Emmanuel Macron during his two-day stay there.

Subsequently, Anwar will attend the 17th BRICS Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro.
- Bernama