

Putin calls M'sia reliable, significant partner of Russia

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin, at a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday, called Malaysia a reliable and important partner for Russia.

"Dear Mr Prime Minister, dear friends, allow me to welcome you cordially in Moscow. Malaysia is our long-standing, very reliable and significant partner both in general and in Southeast Asia," Putin said during the meeting.

He said economic ties between Russia and Malaysia are stable and added that although bilateral trade decreased last year, it remains good.

"The intergovernmental commission should pay attention to this, look for reasons and do everything to get to a positive trend of development."

Anwar responded by saying that Russia is a great friend of Malaysia and that Malaysia respects the nation.

He also expressed hope that the two countries would hold important meetings in the coming days.

Earlier, during a roundtable meeting with industry leaders of the Russian Federation, the leaders expressed their desire to explore new collaborations in various fields, including food manufacturing, agriculture, technology, logistics services, property development and financial services.

The meeting was attended by 24 major companies in Russia and two business councils represented by industry leaders to discuss strategic cooperation in increasing bilateral



Putin and Anwar at the Kremlin. The Russian President hailed the stable economic ties between Russian and Malaysia. - **BERNAMAPIC**

trade between Malaysia and Russia.

It covered industrial sectors involving major products such as palm oil-based products, furniture manufacturing, chemical industry and retail.

Among the companies involved were Oil Partners, Sportmaster and Russian Direct Investment Fund.

Anwar said Malaysia welcomes foreign direct investment from Russia, especially in high-tech

sectors such as aerospace, the digital economy, energy and agrotechnology, in addition to encouraging joint research and development cooperation.

He said Malaysia appreciates the various cooperation mechanisms that have been established, including the Malaysia-Russia Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation, which is expected to reconvene in Langkawi later this year.

"In terms of trade, I expressed Malaysia's intention to double exports of high-value-added products to Russia such as medical devices, building materials and solar panels, as well as increase exports of key commodities such as cocoa and oil palm."

In addition, Anwar said both sides also discussed the resumption of direct flights by Aeroflot to Malaysia and measures to enhance connectivity and people-to-people exchange between the two countries.

"As a sign of the increasingly close relationship, I also extended an official invitation to Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin to visit Malaysia with a Russian government and business delegation in the near future," said Anwar.

In 2024, Russia was Malaysia's ninth largest trading partner among European nations, with a trade volume of RM11.46 billion.

Malaysia's main exports to Russia include electrical and electronic products, machinery, equipment and spare parts, and processed foods. - **Bernama**