

‘We’ll discuss with Thai govt on extending ECRL’

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is ready to engage the new Thai government on the possibility of extending the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) network to Sungai Golok on the Thai border.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia does not wish to see the ECRL network end in the north of the peninsula, but wants to extend it to the Thai border.

“The project is almost completed, and I’m here to discuss the

possibility of extending it to the Thai border.

“It is just a short distance away, about 25km. We don’t want it to just end in the north of the country.

“We are hoping that we can discuss this with whichever Thai government is in place.”

He said this in an exclusive interview on the *BizTalk* programme, aired on CGTN.com yesterday.

Asked about ECRL’s benefits

for Malaysians in the long term, Anwar said it was not just about station-to-station connectivity but was also a strategy to help businesses.

“It can spur economic development not only in the cities but also suburban and rural areas.

“I have been to the remote areas in the north of the peninsula, near the Thai border, and I want balanced development between urban and rural areas.” **Bernama**