

OFFICIAL VISIT TO TURKIYE

# DEVELOPING NATIONS MUST CHART OWN PATH'

A country's future need not be dictated by superpowers, says PM

ANKARA

**D**EVELOPING countries should determine their own path without being overly dependent on superpowers, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

Speaking at a public lecture titled "Power Shift: Strategic Choices for Malaysia and Turkiye" here yesterday, he said a country's future need not be dictated by global superpowers, but required a strategic approach that was balanced, principled and firmly anchored in its national and regional interests.

"It is important for developing countries and rapidly growing economies to recognise that our future does not have to be dictated by any superpower, whether it is the United States or China."

Anwar said the approach by Turkish President Recep Tayyip



**FARAH  
NABILAH  
WAZER**

Erdogan aligned with Malaysia's position in Asean, including during the country's chairmanship of the regional bloc last year.

He said this strategic stance emphasised active and assertive engagement with global powers for the benefit of each country and region, without undermining the vast potential for cooperation among developing countries.

"It is a strategic stance to engage actively and assertively for the benefit of our nation and region, building strong relations with the US and China, while at the same time understanding and acknowledging that our region, particularly Southeast Asia, holds enormous potential for effective cooperation in trade, investment and all related areas."

He said Malaysia was empha-

sising the opening of new markets as a measure to strengthen the country's economic resilience amid global uncertainties.

He said Malaysia, like Turkiye in the regional context and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, continued to uphold the United Nations Charter as the foundation for an effective multilateral system.

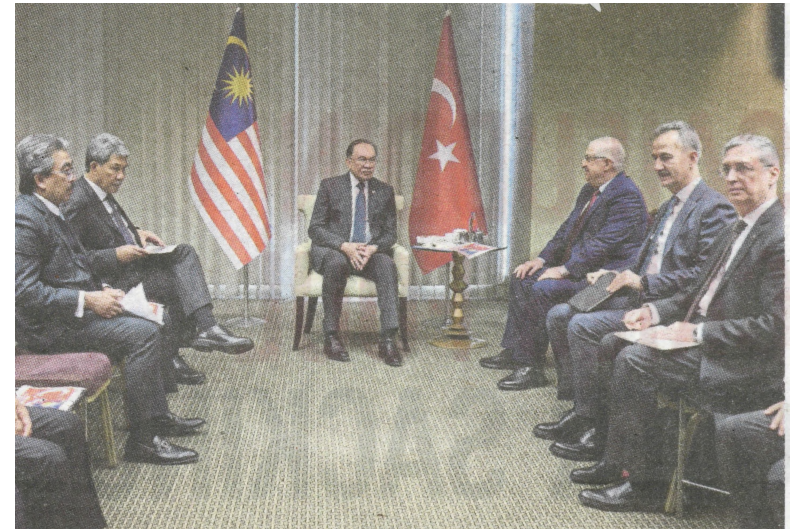
He said Malaysia was prepared to join new initiatives that could strengthen trade networks and economic cooperation.

"That is why we are participating in new initiatives that can expand relations through new trade alignments, such as BRICS, and any form of strengthening networks among third world countries."

Anwar described BRICS as an important platform for building new cooperation and alliances that could bring long-term benefits to developing countries.

"I specifically mentioned BRICS because, like many others, I am excited and supportive of the need to build new cooperation and alliances that will benefit us."

Earlier, Anwar said Malaysia and Turkiye were set to deepen defence cooperation, particularly in capability development, tech-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) in a meeting with Turkish Defence Industry Secretary Professor Dr Haluk Gorgun (second from right) in Ankara yesterday. With him are Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani (left) and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan (second from left).

**BERNAMA PIC**

nology transfer and training, which were key pillars for sustaining their national defence industries.

Anwar said the matter was discussed when he received a courtesy visit from Professor Dr Haluk Gorgun, Secretary of the Defence Industry at the Presidential Defence Industry Secretariat.

He said the meeting provided a platform for constructive discussions aimed at enhancing bilateral defence cooperation.

"We discussed existing collaborations between defence companies in both countries, emphasising that these efforts should be strengthened to a more strategic and comprehensive level."

He also visited the mausoleum of the founder of the Republic of Turkiye, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk,

at Anitkabir here. He was taken on a tour of the historic complex, including the museum that chronicles Turkiye's nation-building journey, sacrifices and founding vision.

Anwar will visit Istanbul today to attend a roundtable session with Turkish companies.

In 2024, Turkiye was Malaysia's third-largest trading partner, largest export destination and fourth-largest source of imports among West Asian countries, with total trade at RM24.15 billion.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim delivering a public lecture on 'Power Transition: Strategic Choices for Malaysia and Turkiye' in Ankara yesterday, as part of his official visit to Turkiye.