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SEPANG: Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim Tuesday embarked on a series of visits to three countries – Italy, France, and Brazil.

The chartered flight from Malaysia Airlines carrying the Premier and the Malaysian delegation departed the Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 2.15 pm.

This series of visits by the Prime Minister, starting with a three-day official visit to Italy, forms part of Malaysia's ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and promote economic cooperation at the global level.

The visits to these major economic hubs – Rome, Paris, and Rio de Janeiro - aim to strengthen Malaysia's diplomatic ties and trade relations with the respective

nations. These three markets collectively recorded bilateral trade valued at RM50.91 billion (USD11.14 billion) last year.

The Prime Minister is accompanied by a business delegation comprising representatives from major Malaysian corporations and innovative enterprises, including Petronas, Khazanah Nasional Bhd, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), Maybank, FGV, YTL Power, and Sunway.

Anwar's inaugural visit to Italy is being undertaken at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

According to Malaysia's Ambassador to Italy, Datuk Zahid Rastam, the visit is expected to further strengthen bilateral relations between the countries across a wide range of sectors.