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Anwar leaves for three-nation visit

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SEPANG: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim embarked on a visit to Italy, France and Brazil yesterday.

A Malaysia Airlines chartered flight carrying him and the Malaysian delegation departed from the KL International Airport at 2.15pm.

The three-nation visit kicks-off with a three-day official visit to Italy.

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

These markets collectively recorded a bilateral trade value of RM50.91 billion last year.

Anwar is accompanied by a business delegation comprising representatives from major Malaysian corporations and enterprises, including Petronas, Khazanah Nasional Bhd, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Maybank, FGV, YTL Power and Sunway.

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

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

In Rome, Anwar will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Energy Transition and Water Transformation Deputy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir.

In Paris, Anwar is scheduled to meet with President Emmanuel Macron, and discussions are expected to focus on trade, technology and education.

In addition to a roundtable with France's industrial giants, he will engage with local Muslim leaders, meet Malaysian citizens and deliver a public lecture at Sorbonne University on July 4.

After the Paris stopover, Anwar will be in Rio de Janeiro to attend the 17th BRICS Summit.
 – Bernama