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STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

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RIO DE JANEIRO: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim described his official visits to Italy, France and Brazil — which began on July 1 — as having yielded substantial achievements for Malaysia.

He said the visits went beyond investment and trade promotion, focusing also on strengthening government-to-government ties.

“Some critics have remarked, ‘we’re not asking them to invest, we’re buying’.

“But even when purchasing aircraft, negotiations must ensure the terms benefit our country.

“We set conditions, such as requiring part of the production or operations to be based in Malaysia.

“This is how we secure national benefit — through strategic leadership.”

Anwar said his meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in Rio de Janeiro were instrumental in articulating Malaysia’s stance on the war in West Asia and Israel’s atrocities in Gaza.

“Macron issued a statement calling for a ceasefire and immediate humanitarian aid.

“Meloni echoed support for a ceasefire and reaffirmed her backing for a two-state solution recognising Palestine as free, independent and sovereign.”

At the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Anwar said many leaders supported Malaysia’s call for strengthened multilateralism.

“All expressed concern over unilateral actions and trade sanctions, including punitive tariffs.

“China, India, Brazil and South Africa criticised the legacy of Trump-era trade measures.”

Anwar was speaking at the conclusion of his three-nation tour, accompanied by a delegation representing major Malaysian corporations including Petroliaam Nasional Bhd, Khazanah Nasional Bhd, Tenaga Nasional Bhd, Malayan Banking Bhd, FGV Holdings, YTL Power and Sunway Group.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that Anwar departed Brazil aboard a chartered Malaysia Airlines flight from the Galeao Air Force Base at 1pm local time on Monday (midnight yesterday in Malaysia).