



Economic  
Affairs  
Minister  
Datuk Seri  
Azmin Ali  
(second from  
left) at the  
Parliament  
lobby  
yesterday.  
BERNAMA PIC

## RM93.9b priority projects completed

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Sixteen out of the 69 priority infrastructure projects (PIPs) under BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 (BEV2025), worth an estimated US\$22.7 billion (RM93.9 billion), have been completed, while the remaining ones are in various stages of implementation.

Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali said this augured well for efforts to strengthen trade relations among Asean member states, as emphasised by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the 34th Asean Summit in Bangkok recently.

"Dr Mahathir urged all member countries to encourage connectivity in all aspects, from digital infrastructure, regulations and control, as well as a community relations to create a 'Seamless Asean'," he said in reply to a question from Awang Hashim (Pas-Pendang) in the Dewan Rakyat here yesterday.

BEV2025, a regional cooperation under the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area, is positioned to be a competitive and sustainable region through various strategies that focus on agriculture and fisheries, green technology use in manufacturing as well as tourism sector development.

Azmin said BEV2025 would open doors for each country to use their respective comparative advantages to increase cross-border trade.

On the trade war between the United States and China, Azmin said it had opened a window of opportunity for Malaysia to boost its commodity exports to China, particularly palm oil, which is an alternative to soybean oil and corn oil.

"In March this year, Malaysian companies signed agreements worth close to US\$900 million to supply 1.62 million tonnes of

palm oil to China.

"From January to April, palm oil exports from Malaysia to China grew almost 255,000 tonnes valued at RM1.4 billion."

Azmin said under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) cooperation, 41 physical connectivity projects (PCP) were listed with an estimated cost of US\$47 billion, out of which five projects were completed, while the remaining projects were in various stages of implementation.

"PIP and PCP initiatives will boost the connectivity and become the catalyst for trade activities, as well as population mobility for economic benefits of the people and nations regionally.

"The government is confident these efforts will ensure Malaysia remains on a positive economic growth foundation towards achieving its target of a developed nation, inclusive and resilient." **Bernamea**