

PM meets Thai tech magnate over possible RM5b EV pilot project

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today hosted a delegation from Thailand led by tech magnate Somphote Ahunai, who has expressed an interest in embarking on a RM5 billion pilot project in Malaysia.

Anwar, in a social media post, described Somphote as the 'Elon Musk of Thailand' and said Energy Absolute Malaysia Sdn Bhd is keen on exploring the market in terms of building up the green technology industry, among others.

Energy Absolute, he said, has a market capital of THB380 billion (RM45 billion).

"They have expressed a keenness in exploring the Malaysian market based on the principles of supporting, investing and embarking on a pilot project by collaborating with Computer Forms Malaysia Bhd (CFM) to the tune of RM5 billion.

"The collaboration involves developing Malaysia's green technology industry, Electric Vehicle technology transfer and building EV manufacturing plants.

"This will particularly involve electric buses, electric school buses, electric boats, electric motorcycles, EV batteries, electric trains, electric cars and others, with a value of RM5 billion.

"As a member of the Asean Economic Community, and with an almost identical culture and heritage, the cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand will continue to strengthen with the spirit of neighbourliness and cooperation in the relevant fields."