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Anwar-Cooperation

ANWAR BEGINS TWO-DAY WORKING VISIT TO INDONESIA

By: Khairdzir Yunus

JAKARTA, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who arrived here today for a two-day working visit, said steps would be taken to further enhance bilateral ties between Malaysia and Indonesia.

He said he would take the opportunity to meet several members of the Indonesian cabinet including Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie.

Soon on arrival this afternoon, Anwar called on Vice-President Try Sutrisno at the latter's residence.

Anwar is also scheduled to meet Manpower Minister Abdul Latief and Planning and National Development Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita tomorrow besides several Muslim intellectual leaders of the Ikatan Cendekiawan Muslim Indonesia (ICMI).

Speaking to reporters on arrival at the Halim Perdanakusumah Airport, here, Anwar said there were already several proposals to enhance the framework of bilateral cooperation.

"Several other ministers will also meet Mar'ie (Muhammad, Finance Minister) on several joint ventures between Malaysian and Indonesian companies," he said.

Anwar also said the Muslims in both countries could learn from one another in terms of experience and approach.

He said the moderate attitude adopted by Malaysia for example had enabled it to achieve progress in the economic field.

"There must be closer cooperation in education, economy and finance," he said.

Anwar is scheduled to close an international forum on science, technology and human resources at Dewan BPPT, here tomorrow afternoon.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was invited (to the forum) but he asked instead," he said.

Asked on what should be the attitude of Islamic countries towards the west, Anwar said it should be of moderation.

"Humility has a place ... if there are people who are arrogant, we'll be firm with them," he said. -- BERNAMA

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