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Anwar-Capital

HELP FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA

By: Khairdzir Yunus

JAKARTA, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia will further streamline activities of the joint venture-capital company set up two years ago to help young Bumiputera entrepreneurs in the two countries, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He said the progress of Ventura Malindo so far was not satisfactory.

The changes to be made include simplifying the mechanism and procedures of approval in order to be more effective, said Anwar, who is also Finance Minister.

Among the immediate task to be carried out is to develop young entrepreneurs particularly among the Bumiputeras in the two countries, he told reporters after discussing the matter with Indonesian Finance Minister Mar'ie Muhammad.

In this regard, Anwar said, he had directed Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed to pursue the matter by meeting the entrepreneurs involved.

He said Mustapa would hold further discussions on the matter during his visit to Indonesia next week.

Several memoranda of understanding (MoU) and agreements would be signed between Malaysian and Indonesian companies during the visit, he said.

Anwar said he also discussed with Mar'ie on the incentives to be offered to banks and financial institutions to operate together in their respective countries through cooperation.

He said there is already such a cooperation between Malaysia's Bank Islam and Bank Muamalat Indonesia as well as in takaful insurance and stockbroking.

Commenting on his meeting with Indonesia's vice-president Try Sutrisno yesterday, Anwar said their discussions focussed on bilateral cooperation to boost trade and economic growth between both countries.

He said Try also conveyed his government's appreciation to the firmness of Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and the Malaysian Government in dealing with the Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor in Kuala Lumpur recently.

He said they also discussed issues which created some problems between the two countries earlier but had been resolved amicably at the leadership level.

The issues include overlapping claims on Sipadan and Ligitan islands to which both countries had agreed to take the matter to the International Court.

"At leadership level, it (the issue) has been resolved and it is now up to the officers and experts to determine the issues and cases to be referred (to the court)," he said.

Asked on efforts to enhance relations between Wanita Umno and wanita leaders from the ruling Golkar Party in Indonesia, Anwar, who is also Umno deputy president, hoped that the new Wanita Umno chief would lay the ground work for the cooperation among women of the two countries.

Anwar, who made a two-day working visit to Malaysia beginning yesterday, also met Manpower Minister Abdul Latief, National Development Planning Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita as well as Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie.

-- BERNAMA

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