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Anwar in meeting with Mauritius PM

Baidura Ahmad in Port Louis, Mauritius

DEPUTY Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Dr Navninchandra Ramgoolam.

Anwar is in Port Louis to attend the two-day Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting which was opened late yesterday by Ramgoolam in this capital city of Mauritius.

Anwar and Ramgoolam discussed issues of common interest, including efforts to strengthen trade relations between Malaysia and Mauritius.

Malaysian investors were encouraged to consider the island's attractive investment climate, particularly in the tourism industry.

This was relayed by Malaysian High Commissioner to Mauritius V. Yoogalingam to Malaysian journalists covering the event.

"Mauritius is also keen to learn how Malaysia is coping with the current currency crisis so that the country can overcome such problems if the situation arises," Yoogalingam said.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, who visited Malaysia during the Langkawi Dialogue in Kedah recently, was keen on both countries keeping close relations in the spirit of South South co-operation.

Malaysian investments in Mauritius include a five-star hotel, the Berjaya Le Morne, located in the south of the island, and low-cost houses built by KIT Homes Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Country Heights Bhd.

There are also Proton and Perodua dealerships here.

Berjaya Group, which opened the Berjaya Le Morne three years ago, has so far invested RM150 million in the resort which is also the venue for the Commonwealth meeting.

Members from 45 of the 52-member Commonwealth grouping have arrived to attend the annual meeting which is a prelude to the IMF/World Bank meeting to be held in Hong Kong from Sept 23 to Sept 25.

Today, Anwar is scheduled to address the first plenary session of the meeting. He will speak on world economic situation and prospects including IMF and World Bank issues.

At the meeting, Anwar, who is also the Finance Minister, is likely to push for a common stand against currency manipulation which has detrimentally affected currencies of many countries.

Other topics to be discussed at the meeting include multilateral debt relief for heavily indebted countries and special issues related to attracting and coping with private capital flows.

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