

11 MAY 1998

Indonesia

INDONESIA THANKS MALAYSIA FOR LOAN SUPPORT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Indonesia today thanked the Malaysian Government for its support in its efforts to tackle the economic and financial turmoil.

Speaking to reporters after talks with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim here, visiting Indonesian Finance Minister Fuad Bawazier said his government appreciated the financial help from Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in Cairo today that Malaysia had given a US\$250 million loan to Indonesia while it awaited for the balance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package to be released to revive its economy.

Meanwhile Anwar said the loan underlined Malaysia's commitment in helping Indonesia institute reforms in line with its agreement with the IMF.

Anwar said the fact that Malaysia was also facing economic difficulties of its own did not mean that it should not offer assistance to neighbouring countries facing similar problems.

Fuad, who is returning to Jakarta from Washington held talks with Anwar at Carcosa Sri Negara, here. He was accompanied by President Suharto's son Bambang Trihatmojo.

Anwar said Bambang represented the Indonesian private sector and had provided details of how the private sector was coping with the crisis.

Anwar also said that he had introduced Bambang to some of the Malaysian corporate figures so that they could draw up plans for discussion on business matters.

However, Anwar said the governments of Malaysia and Indonesia were not involved in any business negotiations between businessmen of the two countries.

--BERNAMA

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