

Anwar arrives in Cambodia for one-day official visit

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Bernama

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim arrived in Cambodia today for a one-day official visit to further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation between Malaysia and the Indochinese country, established in 1957.

It is Anwar's maiden visit to the country made at the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Anwar arrived at Phnom Penh International Airport at 9.05am local time and was greeted by Human Resources Minister V Sivakumar and Cambodia's Special Functions Senior Minister for Islamic Affairs Othman Hassan, who is the minister-in-attendance.

Besides Sivakumar, also accompanying Anwar are Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Mohd Na'im Mokhtar.

After arriving, the prime minister was taken to the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, which is the official office of the prime minister of Cambodia, for the official welcoming ceremony where the national anthems of both countries were played.

Anwar was accompanied by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Anwar and Hun Sen will then hold bilateral meeting to discuss various regional and international issues.

Breaking of fast

Later, they will hold a joint press conference to announce the results of the discussion before witnessing the signing of two memoranda of understanding (MOU) between the Malaysian and Cambodian governments.

The MOU is regarding the recruitment, employment and repatriation of Cambodian workers in the domestic sector as well as the recruitment, employment and repatriation of Cambodian workers in the formal sector to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the labour sector.

After that, Anwar is scheduled to have an audience with Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni at the Royal Palace of Cambodia.

The prime minister is then scheduled to hold a meeting with the president of the Cambodian Senate Say Chhum and the president of the Cambodian National Assembly Heng Samrin before meeting about 300 Malaysians in the country at the Malaysian Embassy.

During the packed schedule, Anwar will also attend a special iftar (breaking of fast) hosted by Hun Sen together with academicians and the Muslim community in Cambodia. About 6,000 people are expected to attend the event at the Chroy Changvar International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Phnom Penh.

At the “iftar” event, the prime minister will witness the symbolic handing-over of 1,500 copies of the Quran translation in Khmer and English from Malaysia to the Muslim community in Cambodia and perform the Tarawih prayers at Al-Serkal Mosque in the capital before departing for home.

In 2022, Cambodia was Malaysia's 58th biggest trading partner and the eighth biggest in the Asean with a total trade of US\$683.6 million (about RM3 billion), an increase of 20.8 percent compared with the value recorded in the previous year.

The total exports to Cambodia increased by 15.3 percent to US\$526.5 million, whereas total imports from Cambodia recorded an increase of 43.5 percent to

US\$157.1 million compared with the previous year.

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