

Malaysia-Vietnam's close bond catalyst for strengthening Asean: PM

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Bernama

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that the close relationship between Malaysia and Vietnam will be a catalyst for strengthening the Asean region.

In a Facebook post, the premier said his meeting with Vietnam's National Assembly chairperson Tran Thanh Man yesterday confirmed the two countries' commitment to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, energy, and the halal sector.

Anwar added that they both agreed on the importance of relations between the parliaments of both countries.

Malaysia recognises Vietnam's role through the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly since 1995 as a key moment for parliamentary integration in the region.

"Through the exchange of best practices in legislation, governance, and reform, we have succeeded in strengthening democratic foundations and expanding the

horizons of cooperation," he said.

The leaders also supported the entry of Timor-Leste into the Asean family, which Anwar said symbolises the unity and solidarity of the region.

Ties with Azerbaijan

The prime minister added that Malaysia views Azerbaijan as a strategic partner with great potential, particularly in the fields of energy, tourism, the halal industry, and cooperation in the construction and mineral sectors.

"This is a platform we will strengthen for the benefit of the people of both countries. I commend Azerbaijan's role in advancing the regional peace agenda, including through the recent Washington Framework for Peace," he said.

Anwar stated that Azerbaijan's leadership on the international stage, especially within the Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement, shows that diplomacy is not just a way to resolve conflicts but a medium to uphold justice and humanity.

"Therefore, the government will continue to bridge the East and West through a statecraft approach and diplomatic art. In a world that continues to be fragmented today, Malaysia chooses to be a voice and a mid-tier power on the

geopolitical stage toward a more peaceful and balanced world," he added.

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