

Asean Summit: Anwar to discuss trade, regional peace, Gaza crisis with Trump

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Bernama

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said he will hold discussions with United States President Donald Trump on key bilateral and global issues during the 47th Asean Summit, which Malaysia will host from Oct 26 to 28.

Anwar said the meeting would provide an opportunity for both leaders to strengthen Malaysia-US relations, particularly in trade and investment, while addressing pressing international concerns, including the situation in Gaza and regional peace efforts.

“We had exchanges, phone calls, twice. He has been extremely cordial, very supportive, and he listens quite well. I think I want to make use of this opportunity, of course, to protect the interests of Malaysia in trade investments, but also to express some of my personal views on what I think will be good for Malaysia, for US, and for the world.

“... including the issues affecting (Gaza). I mean, of course, I commend him for the

efforts. Whatever reservations you may have, you must commend the fact that Trump did a major service in stopping at least some of the bombings in Gaza.

“But our challenge, of course, is to ensure that peace prevails, justice prevails, and ultimately, the legitimate interests and aspirations of the Palestinians are fulfilled and they are accorded their rights,” Anwar said during a conversation session after delivering his keynote address at the Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) Knowledge Forum 2025 today.

Strong engagement

Anwar, who is also the finance minister, said Malaysia’s engagement with the US remains strong despite occasional policy differences, noting that both countries share deep economic and diplomatic ties.

The prime minister said Malaysia also continues to uphold a balanced and principled foreign policy that promotes friendship and cooperation with all major powers, including China, the US and the European Union.

“It’s Malaysia, it’s Asean, and the policy we use is centrality. We are close to China, firm in the region. We work and maintain these traditional relations with the US.

“As a trading nation, we are pushing ahead not only with Europe, Asia and America but also with Latin America and South Africa.

“That's why, for the first time within the Asean fraternity framework, we are having Lula of Brazil (Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva) and Ramaphosa of South Africa (South African President Cyril Ramaphosa) here,” he said.

At the same time, Anwar said Malaysia views the gathering as an opportunity to enhance global partnerships under the Asean framework, which continues to serve as a platform for dialogue and collaboration among key economies.

Trump confirmed Monday that he will soon travel to Malaysia, Japan and South Korea, while saying he also wants "to be good to China," Kyodo News reported.

The 47th Asean Summit, themed “Inclusion and Sustainability”, is scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur from Oct 26 to 28, with the participation of top leaders from the 10 Asean member states as well as key dialogue partners, including US, China, Japan and India.

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