

# PM: INDONESIA VISIT A SUCCESSFUL ONE

**Although a short trip, it provided many benefits to both countries, says Muhyiddin**

JAKARTA

**A**LTHOUGH his official visit to Indonesia took less than 24 hours, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has described it as very successful.

He was thankful because although it was a short trip, it provided many benefits to both countries.

"I feel happy because this trip can be said to be very successful," he said at a press conference at the end of his visit at Istana Merdeka here yesterday.

He said many issues were discussed during the one-hour face-to-face meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) and they arrived at a mutual agreement.

"The visit was very successful. An understanding was forged. The body language of the president was very friendly.

"So much so he (Jokowi) said



*Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Indonesian President Joko Widodo holding a joint press conference at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta yesterday. BERNAMA PIC*

that if there is anything, it's all right to even call him up every day," said Muhyiddin.

The prime minister said the results of the meeting might have been difficult to achieve had it been carried out virtually.

"I can feel the warmth of the relationship with the president while chatting, walking... even though we did not shake hands," said Muhyiddin.

The talks between the two leaders touched on bilateral, regional and international issues, including on trade, investment, labour, the environment, the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the plight of smallholders and fishermen.

While at Istana Merdeka, Muhyiddin also held a separate meeting with Partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan leader Megawati Soekarnoputri.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Jokowi, former president Megawati and Muhyiddin discussed political cooperation between her party and Perikatan Nasional.

Muhyiddin, in a separate press conference before his departure, said his visit was very meaningful and had further strengthened bilateral ties between Malaysia and Indonesia.

He said his one-on-one meeting with Jokowi was very cordial, and the Indonesian president asked him to keep in contact by telephone to discuss any issues of common interest.

Comparing the meeting with a webinar, Muhyiddin said: "It's (webinar) different; (For face-to-face) meeting we could feel the warmth although we did not touch each other when exchanging greetings."

The prime minister and his delegation, who arrived on Thursday, fully complied with the standard operating procedure to curb Covid-19.

Yesterday morning, Muhyiddin was accorded an official welcome at Istana Merdeka.

The prime minister arrived at the palace at 10.30am and was greeted by Jokowi.

He then inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by the Indonesian Presidential Security Force.

This visit is Muhyiddin's first visit to a Southeast Asian country after he was appointed prime minister on March 1 last year.

The prime minister later left for home after completing the official visit to Indonesia.

Muhyiddin and his wife, Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, departed from the Halim Perdanakusuma International Airport at 4pm local time. **Bernama**