



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim saying a prayer before a meal with people at Restoran Murtabak Kampung Melayu Azo 96 in Johor Baru yesterday. With him is Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi (seated, second from right). PIC BY NUR AISYAH MAZALAN

BOOSTING TIES

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# ANWAR IN MAIDEN VISIT TO JOHOR AS PM

He has audience with Johor sultan, attends Friday prayers and meets up with Johoreans

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday undertook his maiden working visit to Johor, his first since assuming the role on Nov 24.

The Tambun member of parliament began his working visit with an audience with Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar at Istana Bukit Serene here in the morning.

Anwar, who arrived at the compound of the palace at 9.30am, waved to members of the media

as his motorcade entered the gates. Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz earlier welcomed Anwar upon arrival at the Senai International Airport.

Sultan Ibrahim arrived at Istana Bukit Serene at 9.34am, followed by Tunku Mahkota Johor Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim 10 minutes later.

After the audience with the sultan, the prime minister attended a meet-the-people event at Restoran Murtabak Kampung Melayu Azo 96 in Kampung Melayu Majidee, where he spent almost an hour mingling with the people.

He later joined the congregation to perform Friday prayers at the Kampung Melayu Majidee Mosque before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, Deputy Local Government Development Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir hoped that the prime minister's first working visit to Johor following his appointment would boost ties between the federal

and state governments.

Akmal Nasrullah said this following the warm welcome by state leaders, including more than 3,000 Johoreans, accorded to Anwar during Friday prayers at Masjid Kampung Melayu Majidee.

"He told me to arrange it for Friday prayers, and out of so many mosques, the Kampung Melayu Majidee Mosque was chosen as Anwar had officiated at the groundbreaking in 1995.

"I am thankful to the menteri besar for coming to welcome the prime minister, with the hope that ties between the federal government and state government will be boosted."

Akmal Nasrullah said he discussed the flood situation in Johor during Anwar's visit, adding that the prime minister said the federal government was committed to flood mitigation efforts, such as those in Segamat.

"The details will follow, along with the issue of flash floods in Johor Baru."