

Premier to meet Biden

Ismail Sabri will also join other Asean leaders at US summit

WASHINGTON DC: Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has arrived here for a four-day working visit, which will include a meeting with US President Joe Biden and Asean leaders.

The Prime Minister arrived at Joint Base Andrews at 8.16am (Malaysian time) yesterday.

He will join Biden, US Vice-President Kamala Harris and other Asean leaders at the two-day Asean-US Special Summit here.

Biden will be hosting a dinner for Asean leaders at the White House today.

This will be followed by the US president meeting with Asean leaders at the State Department, the venue of the special summit, tomorrow.

The special summit marks the 45th anniversary of the Asean-US dialogue relationship and the second special summit hosted by the US president after then president Barack Obama welcomed Asean leaders in Sunnylands, California, in February 2016.

Ismail Sabri, together with Asean leaders, will also participate in the discussion with Harris at the State Department.

Except for the Philippines and



Warm reception: Ismail Sabri being welcomed by Acting Chief of Protocol of the United States Asel Roberts at Joint Base Andrews in Washington. — Bernama

Myanmar, all other Asean leaders are scheduled to participate in the special summit.

"I was made to understand that Myanmar's representative was not invited while Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte will not be attending due to the presidential

election in his country," Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah told Malaysian journalists here.

It was reported that Myanmar junta chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was not invited following the Feb 1 coup in the country

last year.

Saifuddin said Harris would hold discussions with Asean leaders on a wide range of issues, including health, maritime cooperation, climate change and clean energy on Saturday.

"The Prime Minister will stress Asean's centrality in the Asean-US cooperation at the summit," he added.

Saifuddin also said that Asean leaders were expected to discuss, among others, the region's interests in the areas of trade, economy and technology.

The special summit is expected to issue a Joint Vision Statement which would underscore the commitment and aspiration to enhance Asean-US partnership in the interest of enduring peace, stability, security and shared prosperity for all at the end of the high-level meeting.

Saifuddin said the Prime Minister was also scheduled to meet US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and US Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai, and US captains of industry as well as the US-Asean Business Council and Chamber of Commerce. — Bernama