

# Buggy tour of palace grounds symbolises ties

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian President Joko Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, yesterday received Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at an official welcoming ceremony in Istana Bogor near here.

Anwar was on a two-day working visit that focused on strengthening bilateral and business relations between Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta.

The ceremony began with the singing of *Negaraku* and the Indonesian national anthem *Indonesia Raya*, followed by a 19-gun salute, inspecting an honour guard and the introduction of members of the two leaders' delegations.

Anwar and Jokowi proceeded to the palace's Teratai Room for a photo session and guest book signing, followed by a *tete-a-tete*

on the verandah of the palace.

Jokowi then invited Anwar to plant the *Hopea odorata* tree (locally known as Merawan) in the backyard of the palace.

This gesture was to signify the Kuala Lumpur-Jakarta friendship that will flourish for years to come.

In a departure from the palace welcoming ceremony norms, Jokowi drove Anwar in a buggy

for a tour of the palace grounds as well as a visit to an orchard, Kebun Raya Bogor, the world's second oldest botanical park.

Diplomats at the ceremony said the buggy ride reflected Jokowi and Anwar's "familiar, relaxed and friendly" relationship.

Anwar delivered a public lecture at 4pm on "The Malaysia-Indonesia Strategic Relations" at Bank Mega Tower, here.

The prime minister had interviews with CNN Indonesia and the local media before ending the trip.

Anwar left for Sabah last night.

*Page 1 pic: Indonesian President Joko Widodo driving Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in a buggy after the welcoming ceremony at Istana Bogor yesterday.*