

# Our bilateral ties quite unlike any other, Lee tells Anwar

**SINGAPORE:** Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Singapore's relationship with Malaysia is "quite unlike any other" and is happy to continue working closely to advance bilateral ties.

Lee noted that the two countries were bound by geography and a shared history.

"Our people have deep family ties," he said at an official lunch in honour of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was on a one-day trip here yesterday.

Lee said over the years, the two governments had deepened co-

operation in almost every domain, including health, education, culture, supply chain resilience and connectivity.

Malaysia and Singapore are each other's second largest trading partners.

Lee said Singapore was the largest foreign investor in Malaysia, with over S\$56 billion in direct investments.

"This reflects our confidence in the Malaysian economy, including the 'can-do' spirit and enterprise of many young and digitally-savvy Malaysians."

Lee also said Anwar was no

stranger to Singapore.

"Anwar worked with many of us for the better part of three decades.

"It is my great pleasure to welcome him on his first official visit to Singapore since taking office as Malaysia's 10th prime minister."

Lee said he and Anwar first met when they were ministers and had stayed in touch ever since.

He last met Anwar when the latter visited Singapore in 2018.

"He came for the Singapore Summit, where his speech was warmly received.

"Anwar told the summit that if and when he assumed the premiership, Singapore would be one of the first countries he would visit.

"Therefore we are glad that today (yesterday), Ho Ching and I can welcome him and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to Singapore."

Anwar acknowledged that the two countries shared a bond due to their historical, cultural and people-to-people linkages.

"While we have achieved much together in the last few decades, I believe there remains a huge po-

tential to elevate our relations to greater heights for our people," he said.

Elaborating on the Singapore-Malaysia partnership, Lee said it had stood up to the test during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Even as supply chains across the world were disrupted, people and goods continued to flow safely and smoothly between Malaysia and Singapore."

Lee said when the Johor Baru Singapore Rapid Transit System Link is completed in 2026, travel between the two countries would become even easier.