

M'sia keen to explore food security pact with S'pore

SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim sees food security as one area of cooperation that can be explored with Singapore for the benefit of both countries.

Anwar, who is here on a one-day official visit, said this new area of food security can be explored amid outstanding issues that Malaysia and Singapore need to further focus on.

"I think we would solicit support for Singapore to use Malaysia as the heartland to produce for the benefit of both countries."

He was speaking at the official

> Anwar to solicit support for land back home to be used to generate produce to benefit both countries

lunch hosted by his Singapore counterpart Lee Hsien Loong yesterday.

Anwar said although his position in the administration is very new, his views and that of his Cabinet's are very clear.

"Not only do we want to continue relations but also want Singaporeans and Malaysians to

understand that we are two great countries and two great neighbours, that we can do so much more for the benefit of our people."

He added that it was up to Singapore leaders to move forward not only on trade, investment and cyber security but also on resolving all

outstanding issues.

Both leaders had earlier in the day witnessed the signing of three MoUs to promote cooperation in new and emerging areas, specifically in digital and green economies as well as cyber security.

Lee, in his speech, said he and Anwar had a fruitful discussion earlier, including on how both countries could make progress on outstanding bilateral issues.

"As close friends and neighbours, the destinies of Singapore and Malaysia are intertwined. When we work constructively together, we produce win-win outcomes with tangible benefits for our peoples and businesses.

"I am confident that with Prime Minister Anwar's support, Singapore-Malaysia relations can reach greater heights," said Lee.

Earlier, the prime minister held a four-eyed meeting with Lee before calling on President Halimah Yacob.

"President Halimah is visiting Malaysia soon. It is a clear signal that the relations are vibrant," he said.

Meanwhile, Anwar's maiden visit to Thailand next month after becoming premier has raised hopes that he can help forge peace in southern Thailand, according to Thai news reports.

Academics and experts are upbeat that his visit will add momentum to the southern Thailand peace dialogue process, Bernama reported.

Malaysia is the facilitator for the peace dialogue to end the decades-old conflict that flared up in January 2004 in Thailand's southern provinces of Narathiwat, Yala, Pattani and parts of Songkhla.

Civil Society Organisations for Peace and Development in the Southern Border Areas independent academic and coordinator Mansor Salae said Anwar could play an instrumental role in making headway in the peace talks.



(From left) Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Anwar's wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Anwar and Lee tossing Yee Sang during lunch at the Presidential Palace in Singapore yesterday. - REUTERSPIC