

# ANWAR SEEKS BETTER MALAYSIA-VIETNAM TIES

**PM conveys Dewan Rakyat's wish to cooperate with Hanoi's National Assembly**

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants Malaysia and Vietnam to further strengthen ties, which has been established over the last five decades.

Anwar relayed the matter when he led delegates on a courtesy call on National Assembly of Vietnam chairman Vuong Dinh Hue in Hanoi yesterday.

The courtesy call was part of the programmes undertaken by Anwar during his two-day official visit to Vietnam, which kicked-off on Thursday.

"I relayed the wishes of the Dewan Rakyat to intensify ties with the National Assembly of Vietnam for a stronger cooperation between the Parliaments of the two countries through dialogue and exchange of information.

"I also conveyed the need for Malaysia and Vietnam to continue their cooperation and sharing of expertise for the benefit of both countries," said Anwar in a posting on his Facebook account.

On Thursday, Anwar paid a courtesy call on Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) general-secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

"I was also informed that His Excellency Nguyen Phu Trong often spoke about anti-corruption and good governance in Vietnam, and we were both able to exchange views on this matter and the need for the anti-corruption agencies of both countries to work together and have a joint partnership," he said.

In a separate posting, Anwar wrote about his meeting with Malaysians in Hanoi.

The event was also attended by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, International, Investment Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz and Deputy Agriculture and Food Security Minister Chan Foong Hin.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Minh Chinh (right) exchanging books while visiting Book Street in Hanoi yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

"At the dialogue event, I shared with guests that the federal government will table the Madani Economy Narrative, which acts as a guideline and direction for ministries and their respective departments.

"I also shared with guests on the hopes of the unity government and the important role played by Malaysians residing abroad to develop the concept of Madani Malaysia."

Anwar said Malaysia had also given its assurance to facilitate bilateral trade with Vietnam.

When addressing participants at the Malaysia-Vietnam Business Forum here yesterday, he welcomed more Vietnamese investors to seek opportunities in Malaysia. Anwar described Vietnam as a very close friend of Malaysia since diplomatic relations were established between both countries five decades ago.

He also expressed his admiration for Vietnam and its people's struggle to recover from the hardships experienced during the fight against colonialists.

"Because of the resilient leadership and the people, you have been enormously successful in just a few decades, establishing Vietnam as an important country in Asean and now known as one of the most promising developing countries in the world," he said in his speech at an official dinner hosted by Vietnam Prime Min-

ister Pham Minh Chinh on Thursday night.

Present were Zambry, Tengku Zafrul and Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Amran Mohamed Zin.

Speaking to Bernama, Tengku Zafrul said Malaysia and Vietnam could work on leveraging their Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) membership.

He said the RCEP and CPTPP would boost both countries' ongoing economic recovery efforts post-pandemic.

Anwar also spent an hour visiting the Hanoi Book Street, the most famous designated book area in the city yesterday. He was accompanied by Pham.

During the visit, he presented his host with two books entitled *For A Better Malaysia* and *Malaysia: Blooms, Foliage and Fruits*, while Pham gifted him with a book entitled *Lang du trong Van hoa Vit Nam* (Wandering through Vietnamese Culture) by Hu Ngc Anh. Anwar was accompanied by his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

The 200m-long Book Street was opened in 2017 and currently comprises 16 bookstores, including outlets of famous publishers and book companies with local and international authors.