

'TAP OUR EXPERTISE'

Anwar: Malaysia keen to help Laos with halal exports

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed Malaysia's willingness to assist Laos in expanding its halal food industry to the Middle East and other Muslim nations.

Anwar relayed the country's commitment during a joint press conference with Laos Prime Minister Dr Sonexay Siphandone, in conjunction with his official visit to the country yesterday.

"On the halal food industry, of course, we (Malaysia) have a small advantage. You should utilise it (Malaysia's advantage in

the halal food industry) for you to expand your exports to Muslim countries and the Middle East nations," he said.

The joint press conference, which was broadcast live on Anwar's official Facebook account, took place after both leaders held a bilateral meeting and witnessed the signing of memoranda of co-operation and understanding at the Laos' Prime Minister's Office in Vientiane.

Malaysia is Laos' fourth biggest foreign direct investment (FDI) contributor last year after China,

Thailand and Vietnam, mainly in the energy sector, free trade zone, automotive and banking sectors.

It was reported that the total trade between Malaysia and Laos surged by 425 per cent from US\$48.7 million in 2021 to US\$255.6 million last year, mainly contributed by the increase in demand for Malaysia's electronic products.

Anwar also proposed for Malaysia and Laos to expand their technical and training co-operation between universities in both countries.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting his Laotian counterpart, Dr Sonexay Siphandone, in Vientiane yesterday.

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Meanwhile, Siphandone said Malaysia and Laos would further enhance cooperation, particularly in politics, security, diplomacy, foreign affairs and defence.

He said he and Anwar also discussed strengthening their bilateral relationship and exchanged

views on regional and international matters of mutual interest.

Siphandone said both countries agreed for their ministries and government bodies to continue implementing agreements and decisions made in the past to ensure fruitful outcomes.