

# ANWAR: THAI MEGA PROJECT TO BENEFIT MALAYSIA

**Thai leader assures  
PM that Malaysia  
will be involved in it**

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**M**alaysia stands to benefit from Thailand's proposal to construct a port and a land bridge that will bypass the Straits of Malacca.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday said his Thai counterpart, Srettha Thavisin, had given his commitment that Malaysia would be involved in the mega project.

"The land bridge plan is at an early stage... In our discussion, Thailand has given an assurance that it will get Malaysia involved and (the project) will benefit Malaysia, especially the northern states.

"To us, it will benefit Malaysia.

"On whether we are participating (in) or having an equity (in the project), it is still too early to tell.

"But he (Srettha) has given an assurance that Malaysia will benefit (from it) and will be involved in the project, Anwar said at the Customs, Immigration, Quarant-

ine and Security Complex here.

Present were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor, Public Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi, Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing and Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Shamsul Anuar Nasarah.

Earlier, Anwar and his delegation held talks with Srettha and visited Sadao Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex on the invitation of the Thai leader.

Thailand has proposed a multi-billion dollar project to cut shipping time between the Indian and Pacific oceans by avoiding the Straits of Malacca.

It was reported that Srettha had informed investors in San Francisco that the project could shorten travel time by about four days and reduce shipping cost by 15 per cent.

With traffic volumes expected to exceed the capacity of the Straits of Malacca by 2030, this project aims to ensure smooth cargo flow. The project, estimated to cost around 1 trillion baht, involves the construction of sea ports in both sides of southern Thailand, connected by highways and railways. The 90km-long route will serve as an alternative to the proposed Kra Isthmus Canal project.

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**DATUK SERI  
ANWAR IBRAHIM**  
prime minister