



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Salman Al-Saud at the Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh on Saturday. BERNAMA PIC :'

NEXT YEAR

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE TO VISIT MALAYSIA

PM says Saudi leader considers Malaysia a strategic partner in diplomacy, trade and economy



ZAINUDIN ISA

RIYADH

CROWN Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Salman Al-Saud has agreed to pay an official visit to Malaysia early next year, Bernama reported Anwar said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The prime minister said the intention was voiced by Mohammed in an official four-eyed meeting at the Al-Yamamah Palace here on Saturday night.

Anwar said he conveyed Malaysia's views and determination about the Palestinian issue and the atrocities of the Israeli regime.

"I also spoke about the cooperation needed to ease the tension. There will be no solution to the Gaza crisis if there's no readiness of the world community to unravel the core issues facing the Palestinian people," he said before ending the two-day working visit to Saudi Arabia.

He said during the audience

with the crown prince, he received an official state welcome, followed by the meeting.

The Malaysian delegation included cabinet ministers and senior officials.

The leaders discussed issues of mutual interest, including development opportunities in both countries.

Anwar said it was clear that Mohammed considered Malaysia a strategic partner and wanted to increase cooperation in the diplomatic, trade and economic fields, besides touching on issues related to strategic defence and security.

"This strategic cooperation should be the focus, especially in economy, investment, education, tourism, and information and communications technology.

"On the part of Saudi Arabia, of course, the green energy sector that involves greater growth should be given priority," he said.

Previously, Saudi Aramco had

He said the matter was conveyed to him by the management of the world's largest oil and gas company at a discussion at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Saturday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, met Saudi Trade Minister Dr Majid Abdullah Alkassabi and the president and chief executive officer of Saudi Aramco, Amin H. Nasser, to discuss the company's investment plans.

Previously, Saudi Aramco had

voiced its intention to make Malaysia the hub of Saudi Arabia's oil and gas development in Southeast Asia.

In 2017, the Saudi national oil and gas company established a joint investment with Petronas in Pengerang, Kota Tinggi.

Fortune Global 500, in 2021, listed Saudi Aramco as one of the top six most profitable companies in the world, with revenues amounting to US\$105 billion.

Anwar said he received a courtesy call from the governor of the Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, who discussed cooperation in investment.

He said the PIF, whose role is the same as Khazanah Nasional in Malaysia, agreed to cooperate with Permodalan Nasional Bhd and the Employees Provident Fund.

"This is in line with efforts to increase joint investments, not only in Saudi Arabia but also in Malaysia. For starters, there is an intention to cooperate in Iraq and Africa."

In addition, he said, there were other interesting developments involving Malaysian companies in large projects in Saudi Arabia, including the construction of infrastructure for the NEOM project.

The Saudi luxury project is worth US\$500 billion and will set a record of its own when it houses a skyscraper that stretches for 120km known as the Mirror Line.

Anwar said the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority had been instructed to coordinate efforts to increase investments.