

PM to bring Madani Malaysia govt's vision to boost regional cooperation

JAKARTA: Malaysia will stand to benefit from discussions that focus on regional economy, food security and regional stability during the 43rd Asean Summit and Related Summits here this week.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is leading the Malaysian delegation to the summit, brings with him the Madani Malaysia government's vision in various areas to enhance cooperation within the regional bloc.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr

Zambry Abd Kadir said Anwar would hold 11 bilateral talks with heads of government from Asean's dialogue partner nations and leaders from world bodies during the four-day summit.

He said chief among the Malaysian delegation's mission at Asean was the regional bloc's efforts to turn Southeast Asia into the world's centre for trade, diplomacy and investments, in line with the summit's theme of "Asean Matters: Epicentrum of Growth".

"We believe that a part of his (Anwar's) intervention will be on his vision on Malaysia Madani. This encompasses cooperation to empower each country on the need to work together and to emphasise the importance of Asean centrality," he told Malaysian media ahead of the summit on Sunday.

In echoing Indonesia, which is Asean chairman, on its emphasis on the economic wellbeing of the regional bloc members, Zambry said Malaysia wanted all its 11

member state to be able to withstand the global economic crisis.

"In terms of strengthening economic relations, we will look at opportunities where we can find solutions in things like the global supply chain.

"We are living in an open economy, and as a regional association, we are obliged to look together at more cohesive cooperation.

"Asean must be protected in the global economic crisis."

Zambry said Malaysia, like oth-

er Asean states, needed to be independent when it came to food security and this would be highlighted by Anwar at the summit.

Asked about issues surrounding China's recent mapping of its territories in the region, Zambry said Asean would not focus on only one issue with its partner, but all arising matters on this platform.

Zambry said Asean members would meet China's premier Li Qiang during the 26th Asean-China summit tomorrow.