

WELL-MADE DECISION

Successful end to PM's UNGA trip



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THE mission of the Malaysian delegation to the 78th United Nations General Assembly led by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was deemed successful although he was, at first, hesitant about attending.

This was because at the beginning, he felt he needed to be in the country to focus on the administration due to political uncertainties before and after the state elections, followed by the twin by-elections in Johor.

Also weighing on him were the issues of prices of goods and the lack of food supplies affecting peoples' lives.

However, he changed his mind after finding out that the cabinet had the situation under control, and public service workers were discharging their respective duties and roles.

Promptly, he made the decision to fly to New York with a visit originally planned for five days, which was then shortened to three, from Wednesday to Friday.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at a press conference on his last day in New York. With him are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir (centre) and Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail. BERNAMA PIC

In a press conference after the “Temu Anwar” (meet and greet) session with Malaysians and students living in the United States on Friday, he admitted that he felt heavy hearted about leaving the country for the less than a week-long work trip.

For the record, Anwar had a super tight schedule throughout his three-day work trip, which culminated in him delivering a state speech touching on various international issues and criticising selfish superpowers denying the rights of small and poor countries.

Firmly representing the country and the *rakyat*, Anwar voiced his worry for conflicts happening in Palestine, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Myanmar.

He also took the opportunity to heighten bilateral ties, including a meeting with foreign leaders such as Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as well as issuing joint statements on the threat of Islamophobia, and introducing Malaysia Madani.

Anwar also met 15 renowned companies — including AirBnB, Amazon, AWS, Boeing, Cono-

coPhillips and Kimberly-Clark — to attract more foreign investments.

He remained humble with the positive views his foreign counterparts had of him, aside from them seeing the mission as excellent and praising him for being Malaysia’s top salesman.

Instead, he attributed it to the teamwork of many from ministries and agencies, including the Malaysian Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the Office of the United Nations.

“Of course I want to do my best for the nation but I am lucky for the work of the Foreign and the International Trade and Industry ministries.

“They had made early preparations, and our other agencies, as well as Bank Negara and Securities Commission, were also involved.

“When we work as a team, we will get good results and it is proven that our national profile has also been enhanced.

“For me, the results are to be proud of although it is quite tiring. But I will continue,” he said.