

THAKSIN TO BE PM'S ADVISER

Anwar appoints ex-Thai PM to informal Asean advisory group

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has appointed former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra as a member of the informal advisory group to Malaysia's Asean chairmanship in 2025.

The prime minister said Malaysia requires statesmen like Thaksin to share expertise and ideas with the Asean chair on regional issues.

"I have agreed to appoint him (Thaksin) as my adviser to assist Malaysia as Asean chair, alongside a team from Asean countries in an informal setup. Thank you for agreeing to this, because we need the benefit of experience of such statesmen."

Anwar said this at a press conference following a bilateral meeting yesterday with Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who is Thaksin's youngest daughter.

Paetongtarn is on a two-day official visit to Malaysia, marking her maiden visit to the country after taking office in August, this year.

Thaksin served as Thai prime



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim accompanying his Thai counterpart Paetongtarn Shinawatra as she greets cabinet members at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

minister from 2001 to 2006. After a dramatic return in August from self-exile to avoid jail time in the wake of his overthrow in a 2006 military coup, Thaksin served six months in hospital detention, due to health reasons, before being released on parole in February.

After his return, he was sentenced to eight years in prison for abuse of power and conflicts of interest during his

time in office.

His sentence was commuted to one year by King Maha Vajiralongkorn in September.

At another event later, Anwar said he would announce the other members of the advisory committee for Malaysia's Asean chairmanship at a later date.

He said this when asked about reports that Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and former Singaporean foreign minis-

ter George Yeo will also be on the committee.

"We will announce the committee, the backup committee. It (the committee) is informal... to advise me."

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the joint press conference with Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra at Perdana Putra yesterday.