

# Anwar congratulates Starmer on UK polls victory

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has congratulated Keir Starmer on the United Kingdom Labour party's landslide win in the British general elections.

In all his official social media channels, Anwar highlighted Malaysia's unique relationship with the UK, stating, "The partnership between Malaysia and Britain is an enduring one, woven through history and strengthened by the close bonds of kith and kin".

He also highlighted Malaysia's economic and strategic relationship with the country through the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA).

The CPTPP, which succeeded the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement after the United States withdrew from the latter, was signed by Malaysia in 2018 and ratified in 2022.

By participating in the deal, Malaysia sought to enhance its access to markets and investors such as those from the UK, especially after the country left the European Union.

Malaysia and the UK also had close strategic bonds through the



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mingling with the congregation of Surau Al Ikhlas in Seri Kembangan, Serdang, after Friday prayers. BERNAMA PIC

FPDA even after the British military withdrew from the country and Singapore in 1971.

Since then, high-level security discussions and military exercises had been held alongside Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

Starmer, poised to be the next prime minister, emphasised a pragmatic approach to foreign policy and is likely to maintain and strengthen such relations.

"I look forward to working with Starmer and his team to develop a

new strategic relationship, built on inclusivity, equality and mutual respect, people-to-people connection and a shared vision for the future," said Anwar.

The prime minister had maintained strong diplomatic engagement with European countries.

In March, he met with his German counterpart, Chancellor Olaf Scholz, together with a Malaysian delegation represented by several senior ministers.

Yesterday, Anwar joined the congregation of Surau Al Ikhlas

in Seri Kembangan, Serdang, for Friday prayers.

Upon arrival at 1.20pm, he was received by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari and about 1,000 congregants gathered at the surau compound.

Imam Akram Kamal delivered the sermon titled "Hijrah: A Journey to Independence", which called on Muslims to embrace the concept of hijrah and build their lives based on Islamic beliefs, laws and morals.

"Muslims are advised to abandon their bad habits, sins and immoral acts, and instead, carry out what is commanded by Allah SWT.

"Muslims should act as agents of *dakwah* to others, promoting good deeds and forbidding evil, while setting a good example," he said.

Anwar also took the opportunity to meet renowned preacher Ustaz Abdul Somad from Sumatera, Indonesia, who was attending prayers at the surau.

Earlier, the prime minister mingled with the people and had lunch at Singgah Rassa restaurant nearby.

However, requests by media members for a door-stop interview with him were unsuccessful.