

# PM'S AUSSIE TRIP TO BOOST TIES, TRADE

**Anwar to attend 2 summits, and meet Australian leaders and industry captains**

MELBOURNE

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's first official visit to Australia is expected to strengthen relations between the two countries via bilateral and multilateral platforms.

His four-day visit, at the invitation of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, begins today, at the head of a Malaysian delegation to the 2nd Malaysia-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting (ALM) and the Asean-Australia Special Summit tomorrow and Wednesday here.

Anwar will end his visit on Thursday in Canberra, where he is scheduled to deliver a lecture at the Australian National University and meet Australian Governor-General David Hurley.

Speaking to Malaysian journalists here, Malaysian high commissioner to Australia Sharrina Abdullah said ties between both countries had been strengthened by the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership (CSP) in 2021.

This visit, she said, would underscore both countries' determination to boost cooperation and deepen diplomatic, economic and cultural ties.

She said the visit would also bring to the fore Malaysia's cultural wealth and economic strength, readying opportunities



**SHAHRIZAN SALIAN**

for more cooperation between businesses, academic institutions and cultural organisations.

"In addition, this visit is expected to bring meaningful results in bilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding and joint initiatives, which will strengthen cooperation between Malaysia and Australia.

"The summit is expected to produce a number of initiatives to boost cooperation, backed by solid diplomacy, outstanding people relations and shared values between Asean and Australia.

"This visit is evidence of not only the friendship between the two countries, but will also set a new level of cooperation and prosperity between Malaysia and Australia on bilateral and multilateral platforms," she said.

Anwar kicks off his visit by opening the Al-Taqwa Sports Complex here before attending the ALM, which aims to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment and regional security.

In the meeting, Anwar and Albanese are expected to discuss steps to strengthen the CSP framework, including in trade

and investment, education, digital economy and cybersecurity.

They are scheduled to hold a joint press conference, as well as witness the signing of four MoUs — covering higher education, technical and vocational education and training, youth and sports, and cybersecurity — and practical arrangements related to cooperation in science and technology and their applications for the implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

On the second day, Anwar will lead the Malaysian delegation at the summit, now in its 50th year since Australia became Asean's first Dialogue Partner in 1974.

At the summit, Asean and Australia will study cooperation in various sectors, including energy transition, human capital development, economic integration and maritime continuity.

Asean leaders will exchange opinions on regional and global issues, including on Palestine. The summit is expected to ratify the Asean-Australia Leaders' Vision Statement and Melbourne Declaration as a guiding document to chart the strategic partnership of Asean and Australia.

Anwar will hold roundtable and private meetings with captains of industry to accelerate trade and investment, and deliver a keynote address at the Invest Asean-Melbourne 2024.

Anwar will meet the prime ministers of Thailand and New Zealand on the sidelines of the summit and meet Malaysian diaspora.



**Sharrina Abdullah**