

Kyrgyz govt requests adviser from Malaysia

BISHKEK: The Kyrgyz Republic expressed its desire for Malaysia to appoint an adviser to the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar said this request was made by his Kyrgyz counterpart, chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Akylbek Zhaparov at a meeting at the Ala Archa State Residence on Wednesday.

"He (Akylbek Zhaparov) requested that if possible, we appoint someone who could serve as an adviser to the government (Kyrgyz Republic). This shows their level of respect and recognition for the Malaysian government.

"Meaning, when they want to negotiate issues such as privatisation, hydro projects, highways or gold mining, for example, they would ask us to give advice and share our experiences," he said this at a press conference in his two-day official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic beginning Wednesday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said this request from the Kyrgyz Republic will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting.

He viewed the potential appointment of the adviser as not only part of the conduct of bilateral relations but also providing opportunities for investors from Malaysia as there are numerous areas of cooperation for the two countries to explore.

On tourism, Anwar said this sector has great potential to be strengthened between Malaysia and the Kyrgyz Republic, as both countries have unique attractions of their own.

"The Kyrgyz Republic has mountainous areas, while its people are very interested in forest and beach areas in our country," he said.

Asked about his official visit to Central Asian countries, Anwar said the Central Asian region has great potential for cooperation to be explored.

Commenting on cooperation with the Kyrgyz Republic, which began in 1992, Anwar said it is time for this cooperation to be strengthened as it benefits the country. - Bernama