

Anwar receives Peru's highest honour

LIMA (PERU): Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim received Peru's highest honour, the *El Sol del Peru*, during his first official visit to the Latin American nation since assuming office in 2022.

The conferment was done by Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra at the Government Palace on Wednesday.

El Sol de Peru (The Sun of Peru) is awarded to sovereigns, heads of state, government heads, foreign affairs ministers, state ministers, accredited foreign ambassadors or presidents of public authorities.

Anwar said he is deeply honoured to be conferred the prestigious Order.

"I understand that this distinguished award was established soon after Peru declared its independence from Spain in 1821, making it the oldest civilian honour in the Americas.

"As with any honour I receive in my role as prime minister, I accept this distinction on behalf of the people of Malaysia. We will cherish this as a symbol of the enduring friendship between our two nations," he said after receiving the Order.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said Peru holds a certain familiarity that is hard to ignore.

"Like Malaysia, it is a thriving multicultural society, with a megadiverse ecosystem that mirrors our own. Both our nations strive to adapt amid growing geopolitical shifts and economic rivalries."

He said Malaysia sees immense potential in strengthening cooperation in areas such as trade and investment as well as promoting the interests of the Global South.

"The tyranny of distance will not hold us back from building a fruitful partnership."

He added that it is his sincere hope that this would mark a new beginning in the relationship between both countries.

Anwar's visit to Peru, which includes his participation in the 31st Apec Economic Leaders' Meeting from yesterday to Nov 16, is expected to strengthen bilateral relations between Malaysia and Peru.

He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Aziz.

Peru, a western South American country, is bordered by Ecuador and Colombia in the north and Brazil in the east. - Bernama