

PM: PRABOWO WILL BOOST TIES

Anwar confident new Indonesian president will elevate region's standing

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA will continue to be a strategic partner to Indonesia, while strengthening the friendship between the two brotherly nations, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Anwar expressed his confidence that the inauguration of President Prabowo Subianto would boost ties between the two countries and elevate the region's standing.

"I attended this meaningful and significant ceremony, marking a milestone in Indonesia's democratic history and regional political development, as a gesture of respect for the people of Indonesia.

"With Bapak Prabowo Subianto's long political journey, having faced numerous challenges and tests, I am confident that he will serve wholeheartedly and, together with Malaysia, help foster harmony and elevate the stature of this region."

Earlier yesterday, Anwar attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prabowo, 73, as Indonesia's president for the 2024-2029 term at the Indonesian Parliament.

He was among 19 foreign leaders and heads of states invited to the event, including Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vucelic, Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Timor-Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto having a meal at the latter's home in Jakarta on Saturday. PIC TAKEN FROM DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM'S FACEBOOK PAGE

He expressed his appreciation to Indonesia's seventh president, Joko Widodo, for his contributions and cooperation with Malaysia during his tenure from Oct 20, 2014 to Oct 20, 2024.

Prabowo takes the helm as the leader of the world's third-largest democracy by population, following his victory in the presidential election on Feb 14 where he secured 59 per cent of the vote.

Alongside Vice-President Gibran Rakabuming Raka, 37, Prabowo defeated Anies

Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo.

Anwar also congratulated Prabowo on his appointment as president.

"I represent the government of Malaysia in conveying my congratulations and well wishes as my long-time friend Prabowo begins his duties," Anwar told Malaysian media in Jakarta.

On Saturday, the two leaders had a casual meeting at Prabowo's residence where they discussed issues and initiatives to strengthen cooperation and collaboration.

"Tonight, I met my true friend

and brother, Mr Prabowo Subianto.

"God willing, we will work more closely in an atmosphere of friendship, not only on a personal level but also on a national level, which will benefit the people of both countries," he said in a Facebook post on Saturday.

Since taking office in November 2022, Anwar has prioritised Indonesia as a key diplomatic partner, with his first official visit in January 2023, followed by his participation in the Asean Summits in Labuan Bajo and Jakarta in the same year.

After attending the swearing-in event, Anwar departed for home about 1pm.

He arrived in Jakarta on Saturday to join foreign heads of state and representatives in witnessing the swearing-in.

His working visit was at the invitation of the Indonesian government. **Bernamea**

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim congratulating Prabowo Subianto on his appointment as president of Indonesia in Jakarta yesterday.