



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok yesterday. AFP PIC

## ANWAR'S TRIP TO RUSSIA

# 'ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR COLLABORATION'

Putrajaya happy to continue working closely with Moscow, Anwar tells Putin



**ZURAIMI  
ABDULLAH**

VLADIVOSTOK

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim agree that the potential for further collaboration between Russia and Malaysia is "enormous".

Anwar said Putrajaya was happy to continue working closely with Moscow to advance their relationship.

Putin and Anwar came to this agreement during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 9th Eastern Economic Forum in Russia's largest port city here in the Far East region.

Anwar praised the growing partnership between the two

countries across various domains and expressed Malaysia's strong desire to enhance their collaboration.

"As a country that believes in centrality, engaging with all countries, we decided to come with a good team to show our sincerity to enhance (the bilateral ties).

"There is enormous potential that you have in Russia. You have done so much. It is to our benefit, too, if you could share this experience."

Anwar added that Russia had shown determination in facing difficulties and surviving.

"We will certainly benefit from this experience."

Anwar said Malaysia and other Asean countries were looking forward to Russia collaborating with the grouping even further.

Malaysia will assume Asean's chairmanship next year.

"Asean has always engaged with Russia. I look forward to working with you and your team, but more so, Mr President, I agree with you. The potential is huge, and we have not fully utilised that," Anwar added.

"I can assure you, when I assume the chairmanship of Asean, I will make sure that my colleagues in Asean take the same position to enhance collaboration with Russia."

Anwar also told Putin that visiting Russia for the first time since assuming office in Novem-

ber 2022 was the right decision.

"It's not easy, but we took that decision. I think it's the right decision.

"We have decided to enhance our collaboration with Russia in all fields, and I would certainly look forward to having better ties, personal and governmental collaborations."

Anwar was on a two-day working visit to Russia to attend the Eastern Economic Forum.

Earlier, he met Rushan Hazrat Abbyasov, the first deputy chairman of the Russia Muftis Council and Religious Board of Muslims, a few hours after arriving here.

Anwar was scheduled to deliver a keynote speech at the forum's plenary session in the afternoon today.

Last year, Russia was Malaysia's eighth largest trading partner among European countries.

Total bilateral trade increased 15.6 per cent to RM14.22 billion from RM12.3 billion in 2022.

Anwar was accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari and senior officials of the ministries.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim shaking hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok yesterday.