

KL set to host global heavyweights

With Xi, Trump, Lula and Ramaphosa attending, Anwar calls for meaningful dialogue

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CYBERJAYA: Four prominent world leaders are expected to attend the 47th Asean Summit scheduled to take place in Kuala Lumpur this October, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

According to the Prime Minister, it will be a veritable assembly of the world's principal centres of power and influence.

"We look forward to welcoming the heads of governments of Asean and our dialogue partners, including United States President Donald Trump and, I believe, President Xi Jinping of China.

"In addition, we received positive indications on the attendance of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who currently hold the BRICS and G20 presidencies, respectively,"

Anwar said in his speech at the 58th Asean Day celebration at the Cyber Event Hall here yesterday.

"But securing their presence is only the first step.



"The greater test is to ensure that they leave Malaysia and Asean feeling their time was well spent. We must ensure that their visit yields results of lasting value.

"The eyes of the world will be upon us, and we must therefore rise to the occasion," he said.

Anwar also stressed that peace between nations and within Asean is the foundation of a shared regional community.

He said that such matters should not be taken for granted, noting that the recent conflict along the Cambodian and Thai border served as a reminder to all parties of how quickly tensions can escalate if left unresolved.

"As Chair (of Asean), Malaysia was constructive in facilitating talks between the two countries.

"I would like to acknowledge the support mandate from my

friends, including His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei and the presidents and prime ministers in Asean who have consistently provided their full support and endorsement; this is indeed a remarkable achievement," he said.

"Once more, I believe this is unprecedented; it is a remarkable feat that clearly demonstrates the strength, commitment, and resolve of Asean leaders."

Also present at the event were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing.

Themed 'Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Asean Future', the celebration reflects Malaysia's chairmanship priorities, gathering over 700 participants from across the Asean community, including government officials, diplomats, business leaders, scholars and youth.

Anwar also said that he had shared the same message of solidarity when he spoke to the Cambodian and Thai prime ministers.

"Every time I speak to the Prime Minister of Thailand or the Prime Minister of Cambodia, I always tell them, 'Look, I have this mandate and the support of all my Asean colleagues.'

"Therefore, that gives an added strength to what I have to say. Hence, the Prime Ministers must take my statements into serious consideration.

"That's why I think the credit goes to Asean as a body, as an association, and I think if the truce is a good beginning, it augurs well for the future of Asean in terms of attaining geopolitical strategy," he said.

Separately, Anwar said that Asean's next challenge pertains to Myanmar, where they are making progress, particularly in securing a ceasefire,

"Our Foreign Minister, together with the foreign ministers of Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, as I was made to understand, will be visiting Myanmar soon to impress upon them to stay on course, starting with an end to violence and the

cessation of hostilities," he said.

Anwar said this goal will be pursued with dialogue among the stakeholders and players within Myanmar.

"Asean will undoubtedly take all necessary steps to support this process," he added.

During a press conference, Mohamad announced that he, along with his counterparts from Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia, would visit Myanmar on Sept 19.

The purpose of this visit is to gain a clearer understanding of the new administration following the country's end of the state of emergency.

"I want to discuss if their elections will be comprehensive," said Mohamad.