

# 'VIETNAM VISIT KEY TO MALAYSIA'S ASEAN ROLE'

**Asean Future Forum a platform to state our position, priorities, says envoy**

**HANOI**

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Vietnam for the Asean Future Forum will promote and safeguard Malaysia's goals as Asean chair.

It is also seen as a platform to state Malaysia's position on discussions related to Asean's future.

Malaysia's ambassador to Vietnam, Datuk Tan Yang Thai, said yesterday that Anwar's participation in the event organised by Vietnam not only strengthens ties between the two countries, but also highlights the camaraderie and unity among Asean states.

"This forum plays a crucial role in maintaining Malaysia's visibility as Asean chair.

Participation in this forum allows Anwar to set Malaysia's priorities ahead of the summit.

He said this during a media session with Malaysian media here as part of Anwar's working visit to Vietnam.

Tan said the forum is being held for the second time and has attracted strong participation from stakeholders.

Other notable figures expected



**SYARIFAH DAYANA SYED BAKRI**

to attend include New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, Timor Leste President Jose Ramos-Horta, Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen, who will appear via a video message.

He said Anwar will deliver the keynote address-at the forum.

His speech will focus on:

**E F F O R T S** to strengthen Asean in facing pressures from major powers;

**E N H A N C I N G** the bloc's digital economic agenda;

**D R I V I N G** green initiatives and prioritising sustainable development to secure the future of member states.

Moreover, he added, this forum will serve as a platform for government and non-government representatives to discuss issues for Asean's future, including:

**G L O B A L** trends that affect Asean leading up to 2035;

**R E I N F O R C I N G** its core principles to face challenges';

**R E G I O N A L** cooperation for resilient and sustainable development;

**M A N A G I N G** new technologies for comprehensive security; and

**T H E** bloc's role in maintaining peace.

"After delivering the keynote speech on Feb 26, Anwar will join a panel discussion with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Timor Leste President Jose Ramos-Horta," he said.

Malaysia and Vietnam have had diplomatic relations since 1973, and two years ago, both countries celebrated the 50th anniversary of bilateral ties.

Anwar will be in Hanoi from Feb 25 to 26 at the invitation of Pham Minh Chinh.

He will be accompanied by Deputy Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development Minister Datuk Seri Ramanan Ramakrishnan, Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Amran Mohamed

Zin, Kuala Kangsar member of parliament Datuk Iskandar Dzulkarnain Abdul Khalid and Sri Gading MP Aminolhuda Hassan.

This visit will be Anwar's second visit to Vietnam, following his previous visit in July 2023.



**Datuk Tan Yang Thai**