



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at a joint press conference with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

PRABOWO'S STATE VISIT

MALAYSIA, INDONESIA TO BOOST DEFENCE TIES

Both countries will also enhance trade and economic cooperation, says PM

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MALAYSIA and Indonesia have agreed to leverage their strengths, including

those in the defence sector, to benefit both countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during a joint press conference with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, said Indonesia had a wealth of experience and strength in the defence sector.

"There must be a willingness from Malaysia to see what we can gain from Indonesia.

"Of course, this is more important than acquiring or purchasing from other countries."

Anwar added that both countries will continue to enhance cooperation in the economic sector and trade, and expand collaboration in areas such as education, research, food technology, downstream industries and energy.

"Certainly, we share a very close history, language and culture, as well as geographical proximity due to our shared border.

"Hence, this (cooperation and collaboration) will only happen if there is not only understanding, but also closeness, confidence, and trust among leaders and their leadership teams."

Prabowo is on a state visit to Malaysia at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia.

The state visit reflects the strong and special bond of friendship between Malaysia and Indonesia and is also the first by a foreign head of state since the installation of Sultan Ibrahim as king.

It also marks the first state visit by Prabowo to a Southeast Asian country since his inauguration as Indonesia's president on Oct 20 last year.

Malaysia and Indonesia's strategic ties encompass comprehensive cooperation across a wide range of areas, including politics, economy, defence, interconnectivity, education and socio-cultural fields.

From January to November last year, total bilateral trade between the two countries reached RM106.06 billion, an increase from RM101.99 billion during the same period in 2023.

In 2023, Indonesia was Malaysia's eighth-largest trading partner globally and the third-largest within Asean, with a total trade volume of RM111.21 billion.

Earlier, Prabowo was accorded a full state welcome at Istana Negara.

Bernama reported that he arrived at the palace at 10am and was greeted by Sultan Ibrahim.

Present were Anwar and his deputies Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

The welcoming ceremony at the Istana Negara Parade Ground began with the national anthems of both countries played by the Royal Malay Regiment Central Band, followed by a 21-gun salute from the 41st Battery of the Royal Artillery Regiment.

Prabowo then inspected the Main Guard of Honour comprising three officers and 103 rank-and-file members of the First Battalion of the RMR, led by Major Azham Mohamad.

After the ceremony, Prabowo proceeded to have an audience with Sultan Ibrahim at Dewan Seri Maharaja, during which he was conferred the Darjah Kerabat Johor Yang Amat Dihormati I.

Sultan Ibrahim also hosted a state banquet in honour of the visiting president and his delegation.

Page 1 pic: His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, conferring the Darjah Kerabat Johor Yang Amat Dihormati I on Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto at Dewan Seri Maharaja, Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With them is Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.