



**Warm welcome:** Anwar greeting guests at the tea reception and meet-and-greet session with the Malaysian diaspora in Belgium and Luxembourg, held in conjunction with his working visit to Belgium. - Bernama

## EC told to look into alternatives to postal voting, says Anwar

**BRUSSELS:** Malaysians living abroad must have the same right to vote in elections as those at home, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said he had raised the issue of postal voting for Malaysians overseas with the Election Commission (EC).

"The EC is an independent body but I have raised this matter with them. They must give opportunity to every single Malaysian to vote," he said during a gathering with about 200 members of the Malaysian diaspora.

Anwar, who arrived here on Sunday for a two-day working visit to Belgium, said this when asked about the difficulties faced by Malaysians abroad

during elections.

"I even said don't go through the embassy (for the voting process). Use some mechanism so that people can vote, even if it means adding extra funds for this," he said, adding that the EC was receptive to his suggestion.

On whether the government was giving priority to green technology and forestation, Anwar said that was one of the main agendas of the present administration.

"Europe has destroyed all (its) forests, don't tell us to learn from them. Our forest (cover) is at 54% (and), in fact, our green lungs have increased.

"Last year, we planted one million trees as part of our foresta-

tion campaign," he said according to Bernama.

Anwar added that Malaysia and its Asean partners are focusing on the Asean power grid, which not only generates hydro-power but also from solar and other renewable sources.

"We have 140,000 foreign students in our universities.

"I have visited many developing countries and their leaders want to send their students and officers to learn from us, in fields like semiconductors," he said.

To enhance the standard of education in Malaysia, Anwar said the government is working in tandem with the industry, which means new disciplines and technologies must be acquired.