

# Anwar holds talks with Ramaphosa, Vietnamese counterpart

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**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim held a bilateral meeting with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday.

The meeting provided both leaders an opportunity to reassess various forms of cooperation across multiple sectors, as well as to chart new strategies to expand strategic investments in agriculture, automotive, tourism and the halal industry.

"I expressed my appreciation for South Africa's firm support for the Palestinian struggle, including its efforts at the International Court of Justice."

He added that Malaysia was committed to strengthening ties with South Africa as a key trading partner on the African continent, in line with the spirit of South-South solidarity and Madani cooperation across continents.

"I also extended an invitation to Ramaphosa to attend the Asean Summit this October, and expressed my gratitude for the invitation for Malaysia to attend the G20 Summit in South Africa this November."

The prime minister also received a courtesy visit from his Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Minh Chinh, on the sidelines of

the BRICS Leaders' Summit.

Anwar said the meeting provided an opportunity for both leaders to assess the progress of bilateral cooperation across a range of sectors, including trade, investment, defence, security, maritime affairs, fisheries, as well as green energy and petroleum.

"I raised the need to strengthen cooperation in addressing illegal fishing activities, while expressing hope that more constructive approaches can be pursued to ensure the sustainability of marine resources and preserve the cordial relations between our two

nations," he said.

"Malaysia also fully supports potential investments in renewable energy projects in southern Vietnam, including the submarine cable initiative, which could bolster bilateral energy connectivity and aligns with the vision of establishing the Asean Power Grid — a regional infrastructure project aimed at ensuring energy security and sustainable growth."

Anwar added that he looked forward to a follow-up meeting with Pham at the upcoming Asean Summit in October, as part of efforts to boost further the

long-standing strategic partnership and friendship between Malaysia and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that Anwar met officials from the New Development Bank, formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank.

The NDB delegation was led by its president, Dilma Rousseff.

NDB is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS nations.

It has 11 members, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Algeria, Colombia and Uzbekistan.