

Fulfil aircraft delivery, Airbus urged

PM stresses commitment to A330neo order during France visit

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From Paris

PARIS: Malaysia has called for Airbus' commitment to deliver the A330neo aircraft promised to Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) to ensure efficient operations, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"I stressed the importance of this commitment," said the Prime Minister, who met French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou here yesterday.

It was reported that MAG ordered 20 A330neos and took out options for another 20 in 2022.

Anwar said AirAsia also has confidence in French technology, as reflected in its commitment to acquiring several Airbus aircraft, a move that further strengthens aviation industry ties between the two nations.

"We discussed various strategic areas of cooperation, including high-value investments in aerospace, semiconductors and automotive, clean energy ventures, defence, education as well as technical and vocational training," the Prime Minister said after the meeting.

He added that Malaysia appreciates France's support in the country's energy transition efforts and economic transformation agenda, particularly through the



active participation of firms such as ENGIE, Total and Thales.

Anwar expressed confidence that Malaysia-France relations, with France being Malaysia's fourth-largest trading partner in the European Union, would continue to grow.

"I have extended an invitation to Prime Minister Bayrou to make an official visit to Malaysia to further deepen our strong ties," he said.

"Prime Minister Bayrou and I later witnessed the exchange of three important documents that will strengthen Malaysia-France strategic cooperation in the fields

of defence, economy and technology.

"The memorandum of understanding between Malaco and Carester marks a significant milestone in the development of Malaysia's rare earth industry in line with the country's ESG commitments and new energy initiatives," said Anwar.

The letter of offer to Thales LAS, he added, will enhance Malaysia's airspace surveillance capabilities through two new long-range radars.

"As for the collaboration between Matrade and Business France, it will boost bilateral trade

promotion across strategic sectors such as aerospace, renewable energy and the digital economy."

Earlier, Anwar was accorded an official ceremonial welcome at the Hotel National des Invalides.

He was received by Minister of the Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Eric Lombard. The national anthems of both countries were played before Anwar inspected the guard of honour.

"Honoured to receive an official ceremonial welcome from the Government of France, a meaningful and dignified gesture that reflects the longstanding friend-

ship and mutual respect between Malaysia and France," he said.

As the world navigates an increasingly complex global landscape, Malaysia remains committed to working with partners such as France to champion multilateralism, reinforce peace and stability, and build a more just and sustainable future for all, Anwar added.

Strengthening ties: Anwar, accompanied by Lombard, inspecting a guard of honour during an official ceremonial welcome at the Hotel National des Invalides in Paris. — Photo courtesy of Anwar's Facebook page

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