

Anwar congratulates S. Korea president on election win

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has extended his warmest congratulations to Lee Jae-myung on his election as the president of South Korea.

He said the victory marked a turning point for South Korea, a nation that had emerged from a period of intense contest and scrutiny with resilience and democratic resolve.

"The people have spoken for renewal of trust, of institutions

and of national purpose.

"I welcome the opportunity to work with President Lee to deepen the friendship between our nations in trade and technology and in peace and security, as well as the enduring ties between our peoples," Anwar said in a Facebook post yesterday.

Malaysia-South Korea relations were elevated to a strategic partnership in November last year, a milestone reflecting shared ambitions.

Anwar said Malaysia, as Chair of Asean for 2025, hoped the regional bloc would play a greater role in South Korea's regional outlook, Bernama reported.

South Korea currently chairs the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec).

"As Chairs of Asean and Apec in 2025 respectively, Malaysia and South Korea are well placed to lead impactful regional initiatives.

"In a time of global flux, a deep-

er partnership between South-East Asia and South Korea will be indispensable to us all," Anwar said.

He also wished Lee wisdom and success in the journey ahead.

He said he looked forward to meeting Lee in Kuala Lumpur this October for the Asean Summit and again in Gyeongju, South Korea, for the Apec Economic Leaders' Meeting later that month.

Lee officially began his five-

year term yesterday after the National Election Commission confirmed his victory during a plenary session.

The liberal Democratic Party candidate won with 49.42% of the vote, defeating Kim Moon-soo of the conservative People Power Party, who garnered 41.15%.

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