

# Visit by Polish president marks new chapter in bilateral ties

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**PETALING JAYA:** Malaysia and Poland have agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, defence, education and green energy, while working to foster closer ties between Asean and the European Union (EU).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the official visit by Polish President Andrzej Duda marks a significant step forward in bilateral relations.

"Both our countries play key roles in our respective regions – Malaysia as Asean Chair and Poland as current President of the EU Council," Anwar said during a joint press statement in Putrajaya.

This is Duda's first official visit to Malaysia since assuming office in August 2015.

Anwar said both countries are eager to explore new areas of partnership, especially in hydrogen energy, resource management, digital public services and transport – all crucial for long-term resilience.

He welcomed Poland's swift ratification of the Malaysia-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, describing it as a strong signal of Poland's commitment to regional cooperation.

Anwar also reaffirmed Malaysia's support for Poland's application to join the Asean Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and called for renewed talks on the long-delayed Malaysia-EU Free Trade Agreement.

Beyond trade, the prime minister highlighted opportunities for deeper collaboration in infrastructure, maritime industries, education and cultural heritage.

He also called for enhanced people-to-people ties through student exchanges, tourism, direct flights and cooperation in science, archaeology and vocational training.

Meanwhile, Duda reaffirmed Poland's desire to strengthen its engagement with Southeast Asia.

"Poland sees Malaysia as a key partner, and we are ready to collaborate across various sectors."

To boost trade, Duda said Poland had submitted proposals to reduce barriers in the agri-food sector and expressed interest in expanding cooperation in



**FORGING STRONGER BONDS ...** Anwar welcoming Duda and his wife Aga Kornhauser during his official visit to Malaysia. The meeting marks a milestone in Malaysia-Poland relations. Also present was Anwar's wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail. – **BERNAMAPIC**

digitalisation, green technology and infrastructure.

He also invited Malaysian businesses to invest in Poland, highlighting a range of incentives including grants, tax exemptions, preferential loans and workforce training support.

On energy cooperation, he noted that Poland is the world's fifth-largest hydrogen producer and third-largest within the EU.

"We see strong potential for joint research and development in hydrogen and alternative fuels.

"I assured the prime minister that Poland has both the expertise and market capacity to support such ventures."

Duda also proposed expanding academic collaboration between the two countries.

"We should move forward with an MoU on higher education. There is great potential in research, science and cultural exchange."

To boost tourism and connectivity, he encouraged Polish and Malaysian airlines to explore the possibility of direct flight routes, which would enhance tourist arrivals and strengthen cargo links.

On global issues, both leaders voiced deep concern over the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. They condemned attacks on civilians and medical personnel and called for urgent international intervention.

They also underscored the importance of stronger global cooperation in pandemic preparedness, health security and climate change.

As a gesture of goodwill Duda invited Anwar to visit Poland, expressing hope that the momentum from this visit would pave the way for even stronger bilateral ties.

Wisma Putra says the visit reflects strong Malaysia-Poland ties, built on mutual respect and close cooperation since 1971.

In 2024, Poland was Malaysia's eighth-largest EU trading partner, with bilateral trade rising 19.5% to RM5.66 billion.

Malaysia mainly exports electronics, rubber goods and machinery, while importing Polish machinery, electrical parts and transport equipment.