



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim receiving an Uthmani-style Quran manuscript from Russian Grand Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin during their meeting in Moscow on Wednesday. BERNAMA PIC

Anwar meets Russian grand mufti

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim met Russian Grand Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin in Moscow on Wednesday, right after his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Anwar said the meeting aimed to strengthen the bonds between the Muslim communities of Malaysia and Russia, where 25 million people are Muslim.

"We exchanged views on a range of shared interests, including efforts to strengthen Islamic institutions, expand knowledge exchange and boost the halal industry in Russia by leveraging Malaysia's globally recognised leadership in halal certification," Anwar said in a Facebook post.

Anwar said he also expressed appreciation for Sheikh Ravil's role in promoting interfaith harmony in Russia's diverse society.

"This is an invaluable effort in a world increasingly marred by division, hatred and prejudice," he said,

Anwar presented Sheikh Ravil with a copy of the Quran and its Russian translation as part of the Madani government's initiative to endow one million Quran worldwide.

Sheikh Ravil, who also chairs the Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, presented the prime minister with a historically significant Uthmani-style Quran manuscript from Uzbekistan, symbolising the enduring legacy and transcontinental beauty of Islamic scholarship.

Anwar is scheduled to embark on the second leg of his four-day official trip to Russia yesterday by travelling to Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, one of the constituent republics of the Russian Federation. **Bernama**