

PM urges modern systems to facilitate overseas voting

> There are advanced technologies available, we must leverage such tools to streamline, strengthen the process: Anwar

MOSCOW: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has assured that the voting process for Malaysians living abroad will be improved, ensuring that all eligible voters can exercise their democratic rights without unnecessary obstacles.

He acknowledged that there are eligible voters, including students overseas, who have been unable to cast their votes due to the complicated voting procedures abroad, particularly in countries like Russia.

"There are advanced systems and technologies available now, and we must leverage these tools to streamline and strengthen the overseas voting process.

"I understand that the Election Commission is an independent body, but why can't it ensure that every Malaysian, no matter where they are in the world, can vote?"

"We have submitted our views and proposals to the commission. We will make sure that before the next general election, a proper and accessible process is in place," Anwar said during a question-and-answer session with Malaysians in Russia, held as part of his official visit to the country beginning Tuesday.

Anwar was responding to concerns shared by Malaysian students in Russia, who highlighted the challenges they faced in

voting and accessing government-related election websites from abroad.

The prime minister arrived in Moscow for a four-day official visit on Tuesday, receiving an official guard-of-honour upon landing at Vnukovo-2 International Airport at 6.26pm local time (11.26pm Malaysian time).

His official visit, at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, runs until May 16 and includes engagements in both Moscow and Kazan, Tatarstan.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, is leading a high-level delegation comprising Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambray Abdul Kadir, and Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani. - Bernama