

AMMTC MEET

Anwar: Aseans unity spurs regional peace and growth

MELAKA: Asean is unique and one of the most peaceful regions in the world, enabling it to grow dynamically and attract global investments, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Asean's ability to uphold centrality while navigating complex geopolitical realities reflected the strength of working collectively as a team.

"It is not easy to navigate, but we can do so because we work as a team," he said when opening the 19th edition of the Asean Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) here.

Present were Asean secretary-general Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ab Rauf Yusoh and delegates from Asean member states.

Anwar said Asean's strong bonds of trust were reflected in the frequent exchanges among its leaders.

He said the deep trust among its leaders was often demonstrated through consultations.

"This afternoon, while chairing the meeting, Indonesian Presi-

dent Prabowo Subianto called to discuss several matters. Such exchanges show how unique our relationship is, and I am not aware of any other region that has developed this level of mutual trust and respect."

He cited the Singapore Economic Zone as a successful bilateral initiative that underscored the commitment to shared prosperity.

He added that Prime Minister Lawrence Wong had consistently shown commitment to boosting bilateral ties and cooperation within the Asean framework.

Anwar said he valued the trust among Asean intelligence agencies.

"For ministers responsible for internal security and enforcement, trust is crucial. If issues arise that create distrust or suspicion, we must be cautious. Without trust and the sharing of information, we cannot strengthen the bond we already have."

Melaka has become the regional focal point this week as Asean ministers and senior officials in security and law enforcement convene for the 19th AMMTC and related meetings.