



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Timor-Leste President Dr Jose Ramos-Horta during the official welcome at the Presidential Palace in Dili yesterday, **BERNAMA PIC**

INAUGURAL VISIT

'ANWAR'S DILI VISIT MARKS ENDURING TIES'

Malaysia a steadfast supporter of Timor-Leste, says Ramos-Horta

DILI

TIMOR-LESTE President Dr Jose Ramos-Horta said the inaugural two-day visit to the Timorese capital here by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is a testament to the enduring friendship between the two nations, recalling Malaysia's unwavering support during the country's struggle for independence.

He said talks with Anwar were constructive and focused on the future, including greater Malaysian investment in agribusiness, tourism and renewable energy, as well as education and vocational training for Timorese youth.

Ramos-Horta also announced that today, Anwar will be conferred the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the nation's highest award, in recognition of his long-standing advocacy and Malaysia's role in supporting the country's Asean aspirations, es-

pecially as 2025 Asean chair.

"This award honours his personal commitment and Malaysia's pivotal support. Timor-Leste and Malaysia are not just neighbours but partners in building a united and prosperous Southeast Asia," he said during their joint press briefing at the Presidential Palace here.

Anwar noted his long personal friendship with Ramos-Horta, saying the visit was both official and personal, as well as significant, rooted in the shared history of both countries and Malaysia's consistent support before and after Timor-Leste's independence.

He also stressed priorities in trade, investment, tourism, education and defence cooperation between the two countries, while welcoming the involvement of Petronas and Malaysian private firms.

"Your accession to Asean is only a matter of time. Malaysia looks forward to celebrating Timor-Leste's membership at the Asean Summit in October," he said.

Timor-Leste will be officially admitted as Asean's 11th member at the 47th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur next month.

Earlier, upon his arrival at the Presidential Palace, Anwar was

accorded a ceremonial welcome.

This marked the start of his official engagements on the first day of his historic visit.

The ceremony, led by Ramos-Horta, featured the national anthems of both countries accompanied by a 19-cannon salute.

Anwar then inspected the guard of honour and signed the palace's visitor's book, before proceeding with the four-eye meeting.

Present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil and Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Amran Mohamed Zin.

Anwar was later scheduled to attend a pre-council meeting before heading to the Madani Engagement with the Malaysian diaspora, as well as alumni of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme and the Malaysian Defence Cooperation Programme.

The day's programme concluded with an official dinner co-hosted by Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao.

In 2024, bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$18.72 million, with Malaysia's exports at US\$18.37 million and imports at US\$350,000. **Bernama**