

All for Timor-Leste's Asean bid

PM pledges support for full accession and vows responsible investment



DILI: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed gratitude to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for Malaysia's consistent support of Timor-Leste's journey towards Asean membership.

Addressing the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, the Prime Minister acknowledged the continuity of Malaysia's position since the early years of the country's struggle for independence.

"Many of you mentioned pre-independence and post-independence during the time when Dr Mahathir Mohamad was prime minister.

"He showed consistency in his speech. And I think it is my duty now to ensure that the accession goes on track."

Anwar hailed Timor-Leste's Parliament as the "beating heart of democracy" and pledged Malaysia's unwavering support for the nation's full accession into Asean.

He said Timor-Leste's democratic journey stood as an inspiration for the region, underscoring its resilience in overcoming hardship and discrimination to emerge as a confident and independent nation.

"Parliaments are in essence the beating heart of democracy and an institution that should be



treasured and safely guarded.

"I salute Timor-Leste for showing tenacity, courage and conviction," he said.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that Malaysia would continue to champion Timor-Leste's Asean membership.

"By whatever means necessary, I must persuade all governments and leaders within Asean and use all the resources that I have to get Timor-Leste in as a full member.

"This is Malaysia's firm commit-

ment," he said to applause.

Anwar gave his assurance that Malaysian companies investing in Timor-Leste would do so responsibly, with emphasis on genuine partnership and shared prosperity, unlike exploitative practices often associated with multinationals.

"Invest, yes, and make profit. But always be reminded not to repeat the excesses that exploit rather than empower," he said, Bernama reported.

The Prime Minister also spoke

about his personal bonds with the country, recalling how President Dr Jose Ramos-Horta and Timorese leaders had consistently defended freedom and justice, including during his own years of political persecution.

"Who raised their voices at the United Nations?

"Not the great powers, but the small voices of leaders like Ramos-Horta. I salute you for that."

Anwar said Malaysia's solidarity with Timor-Leste was not only rooted in diplomacy but

also in friendship.

"We come not just as representatives of another government.

"We come as comrades in arms, to share your sentiments, to share your aspirations, and to build progress together."

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Special honour:
Anwar delivering a special address at the National Parliament of Timor-Leste.
- Photo from Anwar's Facebook page