



Anwar being driven to a hotel in a Mini Moke by Ramos-Horta with Gusmao in the rear seat. – **BERNAMAPIC**



## Anwar in Timor-Leste for two-day official visit

**DILI:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim arrived here yesterday to begin a historic two-day official visit to Timor-Leste, aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and supporting the nation's imminent inclusion as Asean's 11th member.

Welcoming him on arrival were President Dr Jose Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao. Also present were Malaysian Ambassador to Timor-Leste Datuk Amarjit Singh Sarjit Singh and Timor-Leste's Chief of Protocol Juvencio Martins.

Accompanying Anwar are Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil and senior officials from the Prime Minister's Department and the Foreign Ministry.

The welcome ceremony included an inspection of a static guard of honour, followed by the presentation of the *Tais*, a traditional handwoven textile of deep cultural significance to the Timorese people. The ceremony also featured a traditional welcoming troupe and a school drum band performance.

Anwar was also invited to join Ramos-Horta in a ride on the Mini

Moke, an open-top classic vehicle that has become a familiar sight at state events in Timor-Leste. Ramos-Horta drove the car, with Anwar seated beside him in the front, while Gusmao rode in the back.

The use of the Moke, long associated with Ramos-Horta's personal style and informal public outreach, added a distinctive cultural touch as the trio travelled together from the airport to a nearby hotel.

This marks the first visit by a Malaysian prime minister to Timor-Leste in 22 years, *Bernama* reported.

Malaysia was the first Asean nation to establish an embassy in Dili, doing so on the eve of Timor-Leste's independence in May 2002.

The visit is expected to strengthen practical cooperation. More than 1,000 Timorese have benefited from training under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme while 55 students are currently pursuing studies in Malaysia.

Economic and people-to-people ties have also grown, boosted by Batik Air's direct Kuala Lumpur-Dili flights launched in June 2025 and the introduction of 30-day visa-free travel for Malaysians in August.