

Anwar arrives in Jakarta for 2-day official visit

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JAKARTA: Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim arrived in Indonesia today on his first official visit since taking office on Nov 24.

The prime minister was accompanied by his wife, Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, on the two-day visit.

The special plane carrying Anwar and his wife landed at Terminal 3 of Soekarno-Hatta International Airport at 2pm local time (3pm in Malaysia).

He was received by the Indonesian public works and housing minister Basuki Hadimuljono and Indonesian ambassador to Malaysia Hermono.

Anwar was accompanied by foreign minister Zambry Abdul Kadir, international trade and industry minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz and deputy chief of mission of the Malaysian embassy in Jakarta Adlan Mohd Shaffieq.

Anwar is scheduled to hold a meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo tomorrow.

The meeting will give Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta the opportunity to assess the progress of bilateral cooperation, explore new cooperation opportunities, and encourage joint efforts to address regional and global challenges.

Various issues will be discussed, including economic cooperation and potential investment by Malaysia in the capital city of Nusantara, restrictions on land and maritime borders, as well as the recruitment and protection of migrant workers

from Indonesia.

The two leaders will also exchange views on regional and global developments, especially the situation in Myanmar, and joint efforts to deal with palm oil discrimination given that Malaysia and Indonesia are the world's largest exporters.

During the visit, eight memoranda of understanding between the private sector of Malaysia and Indonesia will be signed with total projects estimated to be worth RM1.16 billion.

In addition, Anwar is scheduled to deliver a talk on "Malaysia-Indonesia Strategic Relations" and meet Malaysians in Jakarta.

In 2021, Indonesia was Malaysia's seventh largest global trading partner and the third largest among Asean countries with a trade volume of RM95.31 billion.

From January to November 2022, Indonesia was the sixth largest global trading partner and the second largest among Asean countries with an increase in trade volume of 41.7% involving RM120.26 billion.

Anwar's visit is highly anticipated by the people in Indonesia, especially the policy reforms that are likely to be introduced to strengthen Malaysia-Indonesia relations.

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