NEW STRAITS TIMES

[Updated] Saudi Crown Prince grants audience to PM Anwar

By Zainuddin Isa - October 21, 2023 @ 11:05pm



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim greeted the Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (right) during the inaugural summit between leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) today. BERNAMA PIC

RIYADH: The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman has agreed to pay an official visit to Malaysia early next year, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said the intention was voiced by the Crown Prince during a four-eye meeting at the Al-Yamamah Palace, here, a while ago.

According to Anwar, he also conveyed Malaysia's clear views and determination with regards to the Palestinian issue and ongoing atrocities of the Israeli regime.

"I also spoke about the cooperation needed to ease the tension.

"There will be no solution to the Gaza crisis if there's no readiness of the world community to unravel the core issues facing the Palestinian people," he said at a Press conference before ending the two-day working visit to Saudi Arabia that began yesterday.

Anwar said during the audience with the Crown Prince, he received an official state welcome, followed by the four-eye meeting.

The Malaysian delegation was also accompanied by several Cabinet ministers and senior officials.

During today's meeting, Anwar said both leaders also discussed several issues of mutual interest, including development opportunities in both countries.

He said it was clear that the Crown Prince considered Malaysia a strategic partner and wanted to further increase cooperation in the diplomatic, trade and economic fields, besides touching on issues related to strategic defense and security.

"This strategic cooperation should be the focus especially in the fields of economy, investment, education, tourism and information technology (IT).

"On the part of Saudi Arabia, of course, the green energy sector that involves greater growth should be given priority." he said.

Besides attending the Asean-GCC Summit, Anwar, during his two-day working visit, also held discussions about boosting bilateral and economic ties between Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

On Oct 5, Anwar had received a phone call from Crown Prince Mohammed, inviting him to visit Saudi Arabia. -- Bernama