

# VERBATIM JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

**YAB DATO' SERI ANWAR BIN IBRAHIM  
PRIME MINISTER**

**DURING**

**OFFICIAL VISIT OF  
HIS EXCELLENCY KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF TIMOR-LESTE TO MALAYSIA**

**2 DECEMBER 2024**

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*Terima kasih.*

1. Terima kasih. Saya dengan rasa hormat, sukacita, bangga menerima kunjungan sahabat saya, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão dalam lawatan kunjungan pertama selaku Perdana Menteri Demokratik Republik Timor-Leste.
2. We have extended a discussion on number of bilateral issues and it's remarkably easier because we are discussing among trusted friends. We have followed his career, his struggles, his tribulations and of course wish success economically and of course politically, culturally of

Timor-Leste and to enhance bilateral relations with Malaysia but also within ASEAN.

3. Malaysia would expand its cooperation in all sectors, infrastructure, services, agro industry, livestock, poultry and halal. We have had visits, our Deputy Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Zahid Hamidi was there. Thank you for the welcome reception and your Foreign Minister was also here. And we are extending that collaboration, including in the field of defence, security and we will continue to give to render whatever support necessary through the Malaysian Defence Cooperation and Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).
4. In the deliberations we also strengthen TVET cooperation, higher education and welcome the support to approve direct flights. Batik Air will be flying soon early next year to Dili, Timor-Leste and Air Asia will follow up soon afterwards. But more significant in this meeting deliberation is our full support to Timor-Leste ascension as a permanent member of ASEAN.

5. We're looking forward to their being embraced as a permanent member following year in 2025 when we chair ASEAN. And we'll do whatever is necessary to assist Timor-Leste so that process can be further facilitated and accelerated.
  
6. On international issues, we are on the same page. I've expressed my profound appreciation for his support on the issues on Gaza, Palestine. And his concern is expressed on the issues of Sudan, Yaman, Myanmar. And in many of the international forums, I find Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão extremely firm, committed and consistent with this principle stands on the issue of justice and freedom.
  
7. So again, thank you very much for being a good friend of Malaysia and we look forward to further engagements in the future.