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French connection sought for APG

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French connection sought for APG

PM: Malaysia seeks assistance from France to realise Asean Power Grid, undersea cable project

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is seeking support from the French government and industry for the Asean Power Grid (APG), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

Anwar also emphasised the significance of an undersea cable project connecting Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and neighbouring countries.

"One important project for us is the undersea cable from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia, then into Singapore and neighbouring countries," he said at a joint press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron at Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad here yesterday.

The prime minister also outlined an undersea connection from Vietnam to northern Peninsular Malaysia and to Singapore, as well as an overland link from Laos.

He also said Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr had expressed readiness to build a link between Sabah and the southern Philippines.

"The project is important, and we certainly require assistance and support from the French government and industries," said Anwar.

Macron, who arrived in Malaysia on Monday night for a two-day official visit, was accorded an official welcoming ceremony at the Sultan Abdul Samad Building in Kuala Lumpur, followed by a bilateral meeting with Anwar.

It was Macron's first official visit to Malaysia since he assumed office in May 2017.

The two leaders also witnessed the exchange of several memoranda of understanding covering key areas of cooperation, including defence, higher education, critical minerals and energy transition.



(From right) Anwar, Macron and Yeoh share a light moment as they stroll through the vibrant Chinatown area near Petaling Street in conjunction with the French leader's official visit to Malaysia. — Bernama photo

On bilateral trade and investment, Anwar emphasised the partnership between Petronas and France's TotalEnergies, which has led to significant investments in Asia, Africa, and North America.

He also mentioned that Malaysia had exported raw critical minerals to France because of its commitment to collaborating with Malaysia on processing these materials.

"We do not export raw materials; however, we have done so with France because you are committed to processing and working with Malaysians as a team," he said.

Anwar said countries needed to be ready to work together on technology transfer, upskilling and training so they could benefit from and support one another.

"It is crucial for countries, after decades of independence, to demonstrate their willingness to collaborate on technology transfer, upskilling, and training, so that we can mutually benefit and support one another," said the prime minister.

In 2025, total trade between Malaysia and France amounted to RM17.78 billion (US$4.17 billion), with Malaysian exports valued at RM6.05 billion (US$1.41 billion), mainly comprising electrical and electronic products.

Imports from France totalled RM11.73 billion (US$2.76 billion), consisting primarily of transport equipment, machinery and chemicals.

France was Malaysia's 21st-largest trading partner globally and fourth-largest among European countries in 2025.

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>
> Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

Later yesterday, Anwar took Macron on an informal visit to the area around Petaling Street here.

The two leaders arrived in the area near Chinatown at about 2pm, accompanied by delegations and senior government officials from both countries, as well as security personnel.

Also present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Hannah Yeoh.

During the approximately 30-minute visit, Anwar and Macron walked along the rows of shops to observe business activities and take in the atmosphere of the popular tourist destination.

They also visited the Guan Di Temple and Sri Maha Mariamman Devasthanam Temple, two historic places of worship located close to each other along Jalan Tun H.S. Lee.

Anwar was seen explaining to Macron the area's unique cultural diversity, local products and the history of the historic commercial district.

The two leaders also took the opportunity to mingle with members of the public and foreign tourists in the vicinity.

Macron and wife Brigitte departed Malaysia at 6.05pm yesterday. — Bernama

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