

Joint Press Statement
on the Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand
by His Excellency Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim,
Prime Minister of Malaysia

9 February 2023

At the invitation of His Excellency Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, undertook an Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand on 9-10 February 2023. This was an introductory visit upon the Prime Minister of Malaysia's assumption of duty, and reflected the shared and continued political commitment of both leaders to work together closely for the benefit of both countries. Both leaders also had the opportunity to exchange views on common concerns on the current international and regional challenges.

During the visit, the two leaders held discussions in a friendly atmosphere at the Government House of Thailand. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the longstanding cordial relations between Thailand and Malaysia. They reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the bilateral cooperation and collaboration at all levels, particularly to accelerate post-COVID-19 recovery to achieve balanced, inclusive and sustained socio-economic development for the two countries and their peoples as follows:

Connectivity: The two leaders underscored the importance of seamless and comprehensive connectivity on cross-border socio-economic activities between Thailand and Malaysia. They also expressed willingness to accelerate the progress of pending border connectivity projects, especially the construction of the Road Alignment Linking CIQ Sadao - ICQS Bukit Kayu Hitam and the new bridges across Golok River. They agreed to further realise physical and digital connectivity as well as pursue

trade facilitation to enhance economic competitiveness. In addition, they reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in IMT-GT, especially by progressively implementing the Physical Connectivity Projects (PCPs) in line with the IMT-GT 2nd Implementation Blueprint 2022-2026 in order to realise the IMT-GT Vision 2036.

Economic cooperation: The two leaders agreed to continue working closely in promoting an increase in trade and investment as well as to facilitate smooth and better cross-border transport of goods and people. This is to achieve the bilateral trade target of USD 30 billion by 2025. Both sides shared the view that the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Trade Committee should be convened at the earliest opportunity to fulfil the desired bilateral trade target.

Border area development: The two leaders exchanged views to intensify efforts in establishing linkages between the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand and the northern states of Malaysia to further promote long-term investment, economic and social development for the people in the border areas, so as to uplift their livelihoods and well-being. They also tasked competent authorities on both sides to initiate discussions towards this end during the upcoming Working Group Meeting under the Thailand - Malaysia Committee on Joint Development Strategy for Border Areas (JDS) to be held in March 2023 in Bangkok to produce a clear, executable and time-bound workplan under the JDS Strategic Plan. They underlined the importance of strengthening supply chains to further promote the rubber industry, SMEs and industrial development, as well as human capacity building, in the border areas of the two countries.

Security cooperation: The two leaders welcomed achievements that their respective authorities have accomplished in 2022, including the convening of the 1st meeting of the Joint Working Committee on Security Cooperation (JWC-SC) hosted by Malaysia on 5 October 2022. Moreover, they reiterated the importance of promoting peace and security in the border areas between the two countries through further enhancing a

balanced, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development in the Southern Border Provinces (SBPs) of Thailand and the northern states of Malaysia in support of multicultural society. They also agreed to further strengthen cooperation in border security management in order to combat transnational crimes and other cross-border illegal activities.

Social and cultural cooperation: The two leaders agreed to enhance closer people-to-people ties through increased collaboration in the fields of education, science, technology and innovation. The Thai Prime Minister also expressed his appreciation that visitors from Malaysia formed the largest number of international tourists arriving in Thailand in 2022.

Regional and international cooperation: The two leaders exchanged views on the current regional and international developments and reaffirmed their commitment to uphold ASEAN Centrality and to work closely together to overcome challenges posed by global geo-political and socio-economic changes to ensure peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region. They agreed to work in complementarity to support APEC towards an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community as prescribed in Putrajaya 2040 through the adoption and implementation of the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, recently adopted at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Bangkok, November 2022.

Both leaders welcomed the signing of

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) and Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) in relation to the setting up of a Joint Working Committee for feasibility studies on proposed enhancement of the interconnection capacity between Peninsular Malaysia and Thailand;

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between TNB Renewables Sdn. Bhd. ("TRe") and Planet Utility Co., Ltd ("Planet Utility") in relation to the proposed collaboration to explore potential renewable energy and power generation technologies opportunities in Thailand;

(3) Memorandum of Understanding between TNB Power Generation Sdn. Bhd. ("GenCo") and B.Grimm Power Public Co., Ltd ("B.Grimm") in relation to the proposed exploration of any opportunities for collaboration, participation and development of renewable power projects in South East Asia Region; and

(4) Memorandum of Understanding between Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation SDN. BHD (MDEC) of Malaysia and Digital Economy Promotion Agency (depa) of Thailand.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the visit and urged both sides to utilise existing bilateral mechanisms to maximise and concretise deliverables in areas of mutual benefit. The Malaysian Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to the Thai Prime Minister for hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the Official Visit and extended an invitation to the Thai side to visit Malaysia for the 7th Annual Consultation (AC) between the two Prime Ministers later this year. They also encouraged more exchanges of visits at all levels between the public and private sectors to maintain the positive and progressive momentum in their bilateral relations.