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Local firms looking to invest in Nusantara

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ABOUT 10 major local companies are studying the possibility of investing in the development of Nusantara, Indonesia's new capital city, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said Tenaga Nasional and Telekom Malaysia were expected to take part in the Nusantara project, following the Malaysian government's recent discussion with Indonesia.

He also said one of the companies is from Sarawak.

"I have told the Sarawak premier that due to the state's proximity, the state will be at the forefront and such matters will be coordinated with the Sarawak government to ensure it will be more beneficial," he said in reply to a supplementary question from Yusuf Abd Wahab (GPS-Tanjung Manis), who wanted to know the extent of the involvement of Malaysian companies in Indonesia's new capital city.

Anwar said the participation would make Sabah and Sarawak a strategic site in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) initiative.

"Indonesian President Joko Widodo informed me that among the Asean nations, Malaysia is seen as quite forward and most active in terms of this cooperation," he said.

Anwar revealed that such projects, especially those involving gas, would likely be led by the Sarawak government as it is geographically closer to Nusantara.

He also said that the Federal Government would coordinate all development activities for the project with Sabah and Sarawak governments, adding that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof would be the main coordinator.

Anwar also said that about RM1bil had been allocated for matters pertaining to borders in terms of basic infrastructure at the Sarawak border.

To a question from Datuk Mumtaz Md Nawi (PN-Tumpat) on efforts to have more people-to-people connection between Sabah and Sarawak with those at the upcoming Nusantara capital, Anwar agreed that there should be an active plan.

"We must be ready to have more collaborations in terms of universities, youth, Islamic bodies as well as state governments and non-governmental organisations, for greater cooperation," he said.

