

VERBATIM TEXT

REMARKS BY

THE HONOURABLE DATO' SERI ANWAR BIN IBRAHIM

PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

AT THE

ASEAN-NEW ZEALAND GALA LUNCH

Thank you Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, the New Zealand team, joiners, colleagues. I'm here just to assure you that we'll continue and we have benefited immensely from this enduring partnership with New Zealand and we are extremely excited.

New commitments, renewed commitments again and as you have heard yourself in the ASEAN - New Zealand Summit, that all of us without exception, if there's consensus we want this to be further enhanced, and that means precisely to support all your initiatives because even within ASEAN, we are now focusing on intra-ASEAN investments and trade and we expand of course, to New Zealand. Will cross over

Australia from time to time, don't need to worry about it, certainly. Thank you.

So enjoy your lunch and thank you. This enduring partnership has been for 50 years and the last 50 years, looking at the notes from 1977 here, we have not encountered any serious problems.

Well, I'm not assuming that they haven't problems, but naturally we consider you a great friend, a great team, and I have no doubt that our colleagues in ASEAN share my sentiments. So thank you again. Thank you for the lunch and *bon appétit*.