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Australia's Labor Party leader Anthony Albanese will be sworn in as the country's new prime minister on Monday as he promised a "journey of change" vowing to tackle climate change and rising living costs, as per *Reuters* report.

Additionally, deputy Labor leader Richard Marles and three key ministers in waiting - Penny Wong in foreign affairs, Jim Chalmers as treasurer and Katy Gallagher in finance - will be sworn in at a ceremony in the national capital, Canberra. <u>Albanese</u> and Wong then head to Japan later on Monday to attend a key meeting of the "Quad" security grouping in Tokyo.

"It's a big day in my life but a big day for the country, when we change the government," Albanese told reporters outside his <u>Sydney</u> suburban home. "I want to channel the opportunity that we have to shape change so that we bring people with us on the journey of change. I want to bring the country together."

Albanese said he spoke to U.S. President Joe Biden on Sunday night and was looking forward to meeting him during the Quad summit on Tuesday alongside the prime ministers of Japan and India. He will return to Australia on Wednesday.

Notably, Labor will retake power after nine years in opposition as a wave of unprecedented support for the Greens and climate-focussed independents, mostly women, helped end nearly a decade of rule by the conservative coalition.

Labor's campaign heavily spotlighted Albanese's working-class credentials - a boy raised in public housing by a single mother on a disability pension - and his image as a pragmatic unifier.

Centre-left Labor still remains four seats short of a majority of 76 in the 151 seat lower house with about a dozen races too close to call, according to television channels. Some predicted Labor might get enough seats to govern on their own.

(With inputs from agencies)

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