

PM TO WITNESS INKING OF 7 MoUs IN INDIA

They include digital technology, healthcare and tourism, says envoy

NEW DELHI

MALAYSIA and India will sign seven memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in digital technology, tourism, health, pharmaceuticals, ayurvedic medicine and foreign workers.

Malaysian high commissioner Datuk Muzafar Shah Mustafa, at a press conference here recently, said among the areas that Malaysia stood to benefit from were information and digital technologies, and technical expertise.

He said among the notable developments was the Indian Institutes of Technology's intention to open a technology institute in Malaysia, which was under discussion between the two countries.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will witness the MoU signing ceremony," said Muzafar.

"His visit from Aug 19 to 21 is the first visit since he assumed office in 2022.

"This is an important visit, as it is the main starting point for strengthening bilateral relations.

"Malaysian-Indian ties cover various aspects, including poli-



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tics, as well as economic, trade, social and cultural relations.

"When there is a meeting between the two prime ministers, bilateral issues will be discussed in the hope of exploring new areas between the two countries."

Anwar will be joined by Human Resources Minister Steven Sim; Tourism, Culture and Arts Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing; Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan; Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo; and, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

The delegation will also include MIC president Tan Sri S. Vigneswaran, Malaysian Indian Transformation Unit chairman P. Prabakaran and Public Services Department director-general Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.

Anwar will hold a roundtable meeting with representatives of Indian companies, as well as companies that want to expand their operations in Malaysia.

India is seen as a leader in renewable energy and electric vehicles, areas in which Malaysia

wants to take advantage of, while India is interested in cooperation with Malaysia in the semiconductor industry.

Muzaffar said Malaysian-Indian relations began in 1957, and India was among the first six countries to establish a representative office in Malaysia.

He said the relationship of more than 65 years was going very well and was expected to progress, with many new areas that could be explored.

"India is Malaysia's 12th largest trading partner and we agree that both countries should continue to improve trade relations.

"We were close to reaching a trade value of US\$20 billion in 2023, with the target of reaching a trade value of US\$25 billion in 2026, after a slight decrease in 2023.

"The half-year trade this year is has already surpassed US\$9 billion.

"The close historical and socio-cultural relationship between the two countries also boosts the tourism sector, because India is the third most important tourism market after Asean and China, with tourist arrivals in 2023 reaching 700,000.

"The target this year is over a million tourists."

Anwar will deliver a speech themed "Towards a Rising Global South: Leveraging Malaysia-India Ties" at the Indian Council of World Affairs and participate in a ceremony with Malaysians at the Malaysian high commission in Delhi.