

# PM: JOINT PANEL TO ELEVATE TURKMEN TIES

Malaysia, Central Asian nation to boost cooperation in various sectors, including oil and gas

QISTINA SALLEHUDDIN  
PUTRAJAYA  
news@nst.com.my

**M**ALAYSIA and Turkmenistan are committed to boosting their cooperation in various sectors, including oil and gas, through the establishment of a joint commission, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

The commission will be established by both countries' foreign ministers next year.

"It is a pleasure to host the president of Turkmenistan, an important nation in Central Asia.

"Since former president Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow's visit in 2016, we've seen a strengthening of this collaboration, with Turkmenistan showing support for our industries, especially Petronas Carigali Sdn Bhd."

Anwar said this during a joint press conference with Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedow after their talks.

Anwar expressed gratitude to Berdimuhamedow for his country's support of Malaysia.

In a joint statement released after the meeting, both leaders stressed the importance of strengthening relations.

The leaders acknowledged Petronas' positive, long-term presence in Turkmenistan, reaffirming their commitment to building a robust partnership focused on the oil and gas industry.

Anwar and Berdimuhamedow agreed that the economic partnership between Turkmenistan and Malaysia had enormous potential.

They also welcomed the mutual willingness to establish the Turkmen-Malaysian Business Council.

Earlier, the two leaders witnessed the signing of three memorandums of understanding:

**ONE** on tourism;

**ANOTHER** between the Malaysian International Cham-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedow in Putrajaya yesterday, NSTP PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

ber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan (CCIT); and,

**A THIRD** between the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia and CCIT.

They also witnessed the exchange of notes on several agreements, including the Petronas Protocol on Commercial Terms of New Block 1 Production Sharing Contract for the Turkmen Sector of the Caspian Sea, a Partial Visa Abolishment Agreement for diplomatic and official passport holders, and an Air Services Agreement.

Both leaders also emphasised the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation in transportation, culture, education, tourism and sports.

In 2023, Turkmenistan was Malaysia's fourth-largest trading partner among Central Asian nations, with total trade valued at US\$10.57 million.

From January to October, Malaysia's trade with Turkmenistan saw a significant increase of 74.8 per cent, reaching US\$13.90 million, compared with US\$7.91 million in the same period in 2023.

Malaysia and Turkmenistan reaffirmed the importance of resolving international challenges, including the Palestinian cause, through peaceful means.

Anwar and Berdimuhamedow stressed that solutions must align with international law and United Nations resolutions.

"The leaders called for unimpeded humanitarian aid access to Palestinian territories and

stressed the need for a just and lasting resolution to ensure peace and stability in the region."

Anwar and Berdimuhamedow highlighted the need to foster mutual understanding and strengthen regional and international stability.

They said that these principles aligned with the Asean Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Zopfan) and Turkmenistan's initiative for a Zone of Peace, Trust and Cooperation in Central Asia.

"As Malaysia prepares to assume the Asean chairmanship in 2025, Turkmenistan's support strengthens this shared vision, promoting mutual understanding, regional independence, and cooperative security.

"Malaysia encourages Turkmenistan to consider acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia."

The leaders acknowledged the importance of maintaining regular contacts and consultations to fully realise the potential of bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, Anwar also announced that Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka will translate works by renowned Turkmen poet Magtymguly Pyragy into Bahasa Malaysia.

Anwar said Pyragy is celebrated for his works, which reflect a commitment to justice, peace, and the fight against greed and abuse of power.

Berdimuhamedow is on a two-day visit to Malaysia.

He was welcomed at Perdana Putra at 9am and was greeted by Anwar before inspecting a guard of honour.