

Anwar hosts luncheon for Turkmenistan president

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday hosted an official luncheon in honour of Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedow at Seri Perdana.

Berdimuhamedow and his delegation, who arrived in Malaysia on Wednesday for a two-day official visit, were welcomed by Anwar at the prime minister's official residence at 11am.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali.

Earlier in the day, Berdimuhamedow was given an official welcome at Perdana Putra before having a meeting with Anwar.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of two memoranda of understanding covering culture, arts and heritage as well as rubber industry development and economic cooperation.

In a statement, Wisma Putra said the leaders were expected to discuss bilateral issues, focusing on trade and investment, oil and gas collaboration, higher education, tourism and connectivity.

They also planned to exchange views on regional and international matters, including Malaysia's chairmanship of Asean in 2025.

Berdimuhamedow's delegation includes six deputy prime ministers, among them Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, as well as five Cabinet ministers, including Defence Minister Maksat Babayev, Culture Minister Atageldi Shamyradov and Agriculture Minister Charyyar Chetiyev.

Trade between Malaysia and Turkmenistan has seen significant growth, with total trade from January to October rising by 74.8% to RM63.28 million compared with RM36.19 million during the same period last year.

In 2023, Turkmenistan was Malaysia's fourth largest trading partner among Central Asian countries, with total trade valued at RM48.62 million. - Bernama



Berdimuhamedow and Anwar during a welcome ceremony prior to their meeting yesterday. -AFPPIC