

ANWAR VISITS TASHKENT

UZBEKISTAN EYES JAKIM HALAL STANDARD

Central Asian country also wants to boost cooperation in healthcare and education

TASHKENT

UZBEKISTAN wants to work with the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia

(Jakim) so that its halal standards are on a par with Malaysia's, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said it was one of the matters raised during the courtesy visit and bilateral meeting the Malaysian delegation had with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev here on Friday.

He said Uzbekistan also wanted to work with the National Heart Institute to improve the quality of its healthcare.

"Uzbekistan also intends to send its minister of agriculture to Malaysia to learn about efficient water-saving methods and technologies for drainage and agriculture in Uzbekistan," said Anwar in a statement yesterday.

In a meeting that lasted more than an hour, Anwar said Mirziyoyev also expressed his appreciation for Malaysia's firmness in fighting for justice for the Palestinian people.

"Malaysia and Uzbekistan share the stance of wanting to see an independent Palestinian state," he said.

Mirziyoyev also welcomed the Malaysian government's fight against corruption and abuse of power, in addition to appreciating the values of the concept of Madani.

"Mirziyoyev and I share the same desire to strengthen Malaysia-Uzbekistan bilateral relations, especially in trade and investment, apart from cooperation in the education, energy, halal industry, agriculture, transport, digital technology, health, tourism, culture and Islamic finance and banking sectors."

Anwar said he invited Mirziyoyev to visit Malaysia, especially

to participate in the Global Forum of Islamic Economics and Finance in Kuala Lumpur on May 28.

"I deeply appreciate the discussions which took place in a friendly atmosphere, and it turned out to have strengthened the close relationship between the two countries," he said.

Anwar said Malaysia and Uzbekistan had agreed to organise joint educational programmes in Uzbekistan.

Anwar and Mirziyoyev said Malaysia was committed to providing English teachers to Uzbekistan and to have related certifications be recognised for the benefit of both countries.

Both leaders also discussed the assistance offered under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme over the years.

"The leaders also noted that in the future, the development of human resources through new capacity-building programmes in areas such as economic diplomacy, Islamic finance and banking, technology, engineering, energy, chemical industry, creative economy, halal industry, education, ecology and climate change and tourism will be important in the implementation of joint projects," statement said.

Both leaders also noted the cooperation on current issues via international organisations, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Anwar and Mirziyoyev evaluated the relations between the two countries positively in the fight against corruption, which is becoming more active, and the compatibility of approaches to this problem.

Both leaders also declared their commitment to intensifying bilateral relations across all domains. **Bernama**