



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev exchanging documents during a meeting at the Kuksaroy Presidential Palace in Tashkent on Friday. BERNAMA PIC

## Malaysia, Uzbekistan boost trade ties

**TASHKENT:** Malaysia and Uzbekistan have agreed to activate the work of the intergovernmental Joint Committee on Trade and transform the committee into the Intergovernmental Joint Commission.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said in a joint statement that mutual visits of representatives of business circles as well as participating in exhibitions held in the two countries would continue.

Both countries agreed to organise regular bilateral business engagements not only in the mainstream goods and services sector, but also in tourism, healthcare and other areas of mutual benefit.

"The leaders underscored the importance of prioritising the expansion of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and

Malaysia," it said.

Anwar and Mirziyoyev acknowledged a notable increase in the volume of trade in goods and services between the two countries over the past seven years, as well as the need to identify untapped opportunities.

"Both leaders also agreed that there is a need to hold regular negotiations between the responsible agencies of the two countries to discuss creating favourable conditions for bilateral trade turnover, diversifying goods exchange and increasing its volume," it said.

In order to stimulate mutual trade, both leaders also emphasised the necessity to develop air transport connections and the establishment of new convenient logistics routes.

"In order to simplify the export and import processes, the leaders noted the need to accelerate cooperation between the techni-

cal regulatory bodies overseeing product standards in both countries and to integrate information systems in the phytosanitary field," it said.

In 2023, total trade between Malaysia and Uzbekistan stood at RM451.1 million, with exports to Uzbekistan amounting to RM449 million and imports amounting to RM1.99 million.

Both leaders noted that there were progressive engagements between Uzbekistan and Malaysia in creating a conducive halal industry ecosystem.

"The leaders emphasised the opportunities for successful cooperation in various sectors of the economy and discussed possible joint projects in energy, including renewable energy sources, chemistry, electronics and electrical engineering, pharmaceuticals and textile, mining and metallurgical industries."

**Bernama**