



Luxon and Anwar arriving for a luncheon at Seri Perdana yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**

## M'sia, New Zealand target 50% increase in bilateral trade by 2030

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia and New Zealand have agreed to expand the value of bilateral trade by 50% by 2030, said New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon yesterday.

"We are working on e-certification and new Customs cooperation to ensure smooth flow at the borders. We also discussed strengthening our education links and our youth exchanges so that the next generation of Kiwis and Malaysians have that same close relationship that we enjoy."

Luxon was speaking at a joint media conference with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.

He is on his first official visit to Malaysia from Sunday until today, marking a significant step in further strengthening the already robust ties between the two nations.

The two leaders explored avenues for

deepening bilateral relations, with a particular focus on expanding trade, investment and defence cooperation.

On Sunday, Luxon was greeted by Anwar on arrival at 9.30am at the KL International Airport on a commercial flight, before the national anthems of both countries were played.

Luxon then inspected the main guard-of-honour by three officers and 103 members of the First Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment led by Mejar Khairul Fakhzan Zainol Abidin.

Also present were both deputy prime ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Cabinet ministers, foreign diplomats and senior government officials.

Luxon, who assumed his premiership on Nov 27, 2023, acknowledged Malaysia's incredible growth story.

"There is so much that New Zealand can learn from you. Your exceptional success in attracting foreign investments is something that I look forward to."

Anwar said Malaysia and New Zealand have agreed to enhance collaboration in trade, investments and research, particularly in the *halal* industry, Bernama reported.

He said he would meet the Cabinet today to seek advice on the measures needed to enhance ties between the two countries.

In 2023, New Zealand was Malaysia's 28th largest trading partner, 22nd largest export destination and 27th largest source of imports among countries in the Oceania region, with total trade between both nations amounting to RM11.56 billion.

A total of 24 investment projects valued at RM238.28 million were also approved last year, and are expected to generate 1,137 jobs.