

MALAYSIA, UZBEKISTAN TIGHTEN TIES

**Nations optimistic
about prospects for
joint industrial zone,
among other
bilateral cooperation**

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MALAYSIA and Uzbekistan are optimistic about the promising prospects of creating a joint industrial zone in Uzbekistan.

In a joint statement after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and visiting Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, both countries said the proposed Uzbek-Malaysian industrial zone would bring together the best practices and expertise in industrial park development and operations.

"This fosters collaboration in attracting management companies, managers and other investors for participation in the planning and development of in-

dustrial zones in Uzbekistan."

Mirziyoyev was on a two-day official visit to the country that started on Tuesday.

Looking ahead, both leaders emphasised the importance of enhancing economic cooperation in key sectors such as renewable energy, the halal industry, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, smart city development and start-up development.

"Both leaders also expressed their interest in exploring partnerships in the palm oil industry."

Malaysia and Uzbekistan also committed to ensuring active participation from stakeholders on both sides in exhibitions and trade fairs hosted in each country.

"They also agreed to promote the regular and effective organisation of joint business events aimed at facilitating deeper economic collaboration, fostering new business opportunities and enhancing bilateral trade ties."

Uzbekistan expressed a keen interest in collaborating with Petrolim Nasional Bhd (Petronas), particularly in the areas of the petrochemicals sector and clean green energy solutions.

"Petronas is pleased to support this endeavor by establishing co-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Uzbekistan President Shavkhat Mirziyoyev ahead of the Uzbekistan-Malaysia Business Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

operation in terms of technical support, exchange of information and consultation for the related area of interest, while also exploring opportunities for the joint implementation of mutually beneficial investment projects.”

During Anwar’s visit to Uzbekistan last year, the country expressed a keen interest in collaborating with Petronas, particularly through the methanol-to-olefins and derivatives project, as well as in the green hydrogen and associated derivatives production, including green ammonia.

On education, both leaders agreed to further strengthen exchange programmes between institutions of higher education and research institutes as part of the efforts to promote people-to-people contact and mutual understanding.

Both leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to combating corruption and expressed high appreciation for the mutual cooperation between the anti-corruption bodies of both countries.

“They agreed to enhance col-

laboration in anti-corruption education for civil servants and law enforcement officers and to promote the regular exchange of experiences and best practices on anti-corruption issues,” the statement said.

On tourism, Anwar and Mirziyoyev agreed to strengthen cooperation by taking advantage of Visit Malaysia 2026 and explore opportunities in Islamic and halal tourism, including the “Umrah+” programme to promote Malaysia and Uzbekistan as the pre- or post-pilgrimage tourism destinations for visitors from both countries.

“Both leaders agreed to utilise the direct Kuala Lumpur-Tashkent flights of Uzbekistan Airways and Batik Air Malaysia to enhance transportation accessibility.”

Malaysia’s trade with Uzbekistan totalled RM369.8 million last year, a decline of 13.2 per cent from the RM426.1 million recorded in 2023.

Last year, Uzbekistan remained Malaysia’s second largest trading partner among Central Asian countries.