

M'sia, Uzbekistan bolster commitment across key sectors



Towards mutual progress: President Mirziyoyev shaking hands with Anwar before a meeting in Putrajaya. — Reuters

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia and Uzbekistan have reaffirmed their commitment to combating corruption and strengthening cooperation in education, tourism, health and various other sectors.

In a joint statement, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev also expressed appreciation for the existing cooperation between their respective anti-corruption agencies.

“They agreed to enhance collaboration 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 state-

ment read, Bernama reported.

Both leaders also agreed to further strengthen exchange programmes between institutions of higher education and research institutes to promote people-to-people links and mutual understanding between both nations.

The statement also highlighted the importance of expanding educational cooperation in areas such as joint research, academic partnerships and sharing of expertise to foster closer ties and knowledge exchange.

The joint statement was issued in conjunction with Mirziyoyev’s maiden two-day official visit to Malaysia beginning yesterday at the invitation of Anwar.

Mirziyoyev, who assumed the presidency in Dec 2016 after serving as Prime Minister since 2003, was accorded an official welcome at Perdana Putra before having talks with Anwar, who visited Uzbekistan last May.

Tourism cooperation was a key area discussed, with both leaders recognising its potential to boost bilateral relations.

Both leaders agreed to capitalise on Malaysia’s Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign and explore opportunities in Islamic and halal tourism, including the promotion of the “Umrah+” programme to promote Malaysia and Uzbekistan as pre or post-pilgrimage tourism destinations for visitors from both countries.