

# Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan to help Afghanistan return to global stage

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan have agreed to aid efforts to reintegrate Afghanistan into the international community to ensure regional stability, subject to close monitoring.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the matter was discussed during his meeting with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov yesterday.

Both leaders, he said, had emphasised the need for a cautious and measured approach.

“We touched on Afghanistan, with the intention of embracing it into the international community under certain observations.

“I share your (Zhaparov) views on that. As a country closer to Afghanistan, you have a better understanding. We will certainly benefit from your advice and views on this,” he said at a joint press conference with Zhaparov at the Seri Perdana Complex.

He said Malaysia welcomed proposals to facilitate Afghanistan’s

return to the global stage.

In 2021, the Taliban ousted the foreign-backed Afghan government following the withdrawal of United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation troops.

Since then, the Taliban administration has imposed a strict interpretation of Islamic law, including severe restrictions on women, such as bans on education and employment in various sectors.

Anwar also raised the issue of Gaza and Palestine, calling on Is-

rael to end its aggression, occupation and genocide.

“Malaysia calls for the safety and justice of the people of Gaza, who have long suffered under such cruelty.

“They continue to endure hardship due to the failure of the international community to uphold basic human rights and the hypocrisy shown by many Western countries in responding to the atrocities inflicted on the Palestinians.”

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening trade and investment in areas of mutual interest, including agriculture, precious metals and mining, electrical and electronics, industrial goods, machinery and equipment, chemicals, processed food and textiles.

They stressed the importance of enhanced agency-to-agency cooperation in boosting trade and exports between the two nations.