

10 DEALS SIGNED WITH KYRGYZSTAN

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Malaysia ready to offer expertise in Islamic banking, halal industry, says PM

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MALAYSIA and the Kyrgyz Republic have strengthened bilateral ties with the signing of 10 strategic cooperation documents during Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov's two-day official visit to Malaysia, which began yesterday.

The agreements, formalised in the presence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Zhaparov, span a range of sectors, including tourism, higher education, healthcare, digital transformation, cybersecurity, trade and export development.

This comprehensive slate of cooperation is expected to unlock new opportunities for investment, expertise exchange and two-way trade, cementing Kyrgyzstan's role as a strategic partner for Malaysia in Central Asia.

In a joint press conference with Zhaparov at Seri Perdana Complex, Anwar said Malaysia was ready to offer its expertise in Islamic banking and the halal industry to Kyrgyzstan to help develop more comprehensive facilities and services.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said his discussions with the Kyrgyz president focused on establishing an Islamic bank to strengthen the financial system.

"We discussed Islamic banking, halal matters, construction, finance and related programmes,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Kyrgyz Republic President Sadyr Zhaparov (third from right) visiting the traditional Kyrgyz yurt, Boz Ui, on display at the Putrajaya Corporation Complex yesterday. With them are Putrajaya Corporation president Datuk Fadlun Mak Ujud (second from left), Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi (third from left) and Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa (second from right). BERNAMA PIC

including the proposal to establish an Islamic bank. There will be follow-up meetings between our ministers.

"You (Zhaparov) have brought key ministers to Malaysia and my ministers will respond accordingly."

Anwar said the strategic cooperation was essential not only to strengthen understanding and friendship, but also to ensure bilateral trade, investment programmes and projects continue to progress.

He said Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan had agreed to explore the Halal Cooperation Action Plan proposed by Zhaparov.

"This matter will be explored more thoroughly. Undoubtedly, Kyrgyzstan has strong capabilities in hydropower, green energy, and renewable energy, areas in which Malaysia is very interested to understand, study and benefit from."

He said Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan had agreed to enhance cooperation in education and research, with a focus on strengthening people-to-people ties and expanding the social and economic potential of both countries.

As part of this effort, Anwar said, Malaysia would provide technical and educational assistance to Kyrgyzstan through the

Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme.

"Our institutions are ready to assist in identifying individuals for training and we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to implement an exchange programme with your country."

Zhaparov was accorded an official welcoming ceremony at the Perdana Putra Complex.

Anwar received Zhaparov upon his arrival at 9am, with the national anthems of both countries played as a mark of respect.

Zhaparov inspected a guard of honour mounted by three officers and 103 personnel from the First Battalion of the Royal Ranger

Regiment, led by Major Nur Ahmad Zaim Zahari.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, Cabinet members, diplomats and senior government officials.

This is Zhaparov's maiden visit to Malaysia since assuming office in January 2021, reciprocating Anwar's official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic in May last year.

Malaysia and the Kyrgyz Republic established diplomatic relations on May 21, 1992, following Kyrgyzstan's independence after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.