

MILESTONE IN RELATIONSHIP

MALAYSIA, KOSOVO TO STRENGTHEN TIES

Opening of KL embassy will boost trade, education and cultural links, says PM

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MALAYSIA and Kosovo will continue to strengthen bilateral relations, especially with the establishment of the republic's embassy in Kuala Lumpur, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the opening of the embassy was an important milestone in bilateral relations and would further facilitate trade, investment, education, culture and tourism between the two countries.

"We also warmly welcome the establishment of the embassy of Kosovo in Kuala Lumpur.

"This marks a significant milestone in our bilateral relations, which includes halal products, as Malaysia's halal certification is internationally recognised, as well as the export of products from Malaysia to Kosovo and vice versa," he said.

Anwar said this during a joint press conference with Kosovo President Dr Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, who is on a four-day official visit to Malaysia.

The embassy has been running for about two months and was officially opened yesterday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said Malaysia and Kosovo were also committed to strengthening trade and investment ties.

He said the collaboration was crucial to leveraging Kosovo's strengths and its strong relationship with the European Union to benefit both countries.

"I look forward to more engagements other than the technical cooperation (through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme) with Kosovo.

"But please be assured, President (Osmani), that we do not treat this as an ordinary diplomatic engagement, but to give you this commitment that Malaysia is a true friend.

"We will remain committed beyond diplomatic engagement ... in trade, investment and meaningful relations between our two countries.

"Assurance has also been given to her that we will continue this bilateral consultation at the official level as soon as possible to ensure that we carry out the programmes, projects, trade and economic relations as soon as possible."

Osmani said Kosovo would never forget Malaysia's contributions during her country's most challenging times, including being among the first countries to

recognise its independence in 2008.

"Malaysia was among the first countries worldwide to recognise Kosovo's independence.

"That decision carried weight beyond diplomacy, it carried hope, solidarity and it carried the belief in our future and in our people.

"For that, our gratitude will never fade. We reaffirmed our commitment to stronger diplomatic ties, deeper economic partnerships and meaningful engagements in areas of common interest."

Osmani added that Kosovo and Malaysia had also agreed on the importance of expanding trade and encouraging greater investment in key sectors.

"There is significant potential — from agriculture to energy, technology to the halal industry."

Malaysia officially recognised Kosovo on Oct 30, 2008 — one of the first Asian countries to do so.

Diplomatic relations were formally established on March 18, 2011.

In 2024, total bilateral trade between Malaysia and Kosovo reached RM28.55 million, with Malaysia's exports to the republic valued at RM25.92 million and imports at RM2.63 million.

Key Malaysian exports include palm oil, electrical and electronic products, and manufactured goods, while imports from Kosovo mainly consist of raw materials and semi-precious stones.