

## FINAL STOP

# PM's visit to Kenya to boost bilateral, economic ties

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Kenya is expected to strengthen bilateral and economic ties between Malaysia and the African nation, particularly in areas such as the digital economy and housing.

High Commissioner of Malaysia to Kenya Ruzaimi Mohamad said Anwar was scheduled to arrive in Nairobi at 6pm local time (11pm Malaysian time yesterday), accompanied by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

The prime minister has just concluded his participation in the Group of 20 (G20) Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"Upon arrival in Nairobi, Anwar will attend a state banquet hosted by President William Samoei Ruto at the official residence, known as the State House," Ruzaimi said.

The following day, the prime minister will return to the State House for the official welcoming ceremony marking his visit to Kenya.

This will be followed by a one-on-one meeting with Ruto, as well as bilateral discussions between the two nations.

On Malaysia-Kenya relations, Ruzaimi said that ties between the countries had grown closer, particularly in trade, education, science and technology.

In addition to investment, he said, the two leaders were expected to discuss affordable housing initiatives.

"The Kenyan president is very

active in spearheading affordable housing projects.

"With Malaysia being recognised for its success in enabling home ownership through similar schemes, we can extend our cooperation to help Kenya achieve comparable outcomes."

Ruzaimi also highlighted the digital economy as a sector with significant potential for Malaysian companies in Kenya.

Following their bilateral discussions, the two leaders will witness the signing of memoranda of understanding and cooperation documents, including agreements on tourism and collaboration between Kuala Lumpur City Hall and Nairobi City Council.

Anwar was also scheduled to attend the Malaysia-Africa Higher Education Forum in Nairobi, where he will deliver the keynote

address and officially open the programme.

"He will also address the Malaysia-Kenya High-Level Business Forum, expected to host 200 representatives from Malaysian and Kenyan companies.

"At this event, the prime minister will engage directly with company representatives," Ruzaimi said.

Anwar will also hold a meeting with a Kenyan firm seeking agricultural investment collaboration with a Malaysian company.

Later, he is scheduled to meet leaders of Kenya's Islamic community and representatives of Nairobi's largest mosque, the Jamia Mosque, during which he will present copies of the Quran with Swahili translation.

Before concluding his visit, Anwar will attend a luncheon with Malaysians residing in Kenya, in-

cluding alumni of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

Established in 1980, MTCP provides short-term training courses, scholarships, and capacity-building programmes to developing countries, including Kenya, covering areas such as public administration, education, technology, economy and social development:

More than 600 Kenyan officers have benefited from the programme.

Kenya was Malaysia's third-largest trading partner in Africa in 2024, with total trade reaching RM5.7 billion, up 1.2 per cent from RM5.51 billion the previous year.

Anwar will leave Nairobi for Malaysia after the events, bringing to a close his visit to three African nations that began on Nov 18. **Bernama**