

## 60 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES

# 'A DEFINING MOMENT FOR KENYA'

**Strategic partnership will ensure that cooperation with Malaysia advances with purpose, says Ruto**

**NAIROBI**

**M**ALAYSIA and Kenya have agreed to elevate their long-standing bilateral relations

to a strategic partnership, marking a milestone in the two nations' 60 years of diplomatic ties. At a joint press conference; Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto said this would ensure the cooperation between Putrajaya and Nairobi advanced with purpose and structure.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the strategic partnership would cover all fields of endeavour and traditional agricultural imports, as well as new technologies such as energy transition and digital transformation,

including semiconductors.

Both leaders spoke to the media after having a bilateral meeting at the State House here.

"We reaffirmed our commitment to removing tariff and non-tariff barriers, expanding Kenyan exports to Malaysia and vice-versa, and deepening cooperation in digital technology and high-tech manufacturing," said Ruto.

He described Anwar's agreement to eliminate tariffs on agricultural produce and beef as a significant step that would open new market opportunities for Kenyan farmers and strengthen the commercial foundation of the two nations' partnership.

Meanwhile, Anwar said broad parameters and execution of decisions made in Nairobi could be



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim inspecting the guard of honour mounted by Kenya Defence Forces at the State House in Nairobi yesterday. AFP PIC*

finalised before Ruto's visit to Malaysia next year.

"I am giving my assurance that prior to your visit, which is not going to be too late, maybe early next year, we will make sure that some of the broad parameters and execution of the decisions are made earlier — December, January (or) February."

Ruto said Anwar's visit came at a defining moment for Kenya, as the country advanced a new national roadmap inspired by the experience of Malaysia and other Asian Tigers — nations that rose through discipline, strategy, and a commitment to excellence.

"In our discussions, we agreed that Malaysia will explore partnerships and investments across our key priority areas, including collaboration in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and in research and development," he said.

Malaysia and Kenya had agreed to boost their semiconductor bilateral ties as part of Kenya's hu-

man capital development and industrialisation agenda.

"Through a strategic partnership, Malaysia will support Kenya to grow and expand its semiconductor technology and manufacturing capabilities, including with Kimathi University, already a leader in this field," said Ruto.

As part of its broader transformation agenda, Kenya is inviting the Malaysian private sector to participate in public-private partnerships, including investments in road network expansions and power generation.

Ruto said Anwar's presence in Nairobi was a powerful affirmation that Kenya's ambition had met Malaysia's experience at exactly the right moment.

"As we rise, we draw inspiration from nations like yours that embraced bold ambition over limitation and chose excellence instead of mediocrity. Kenya now stands ready to take 'its place among nations (like Malaysia).'"  
Bernama