

## PM departs for Ethiopia in first leg of official Africa trip

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday departed for Ethiopia for the first leg of a three-country visit to Africa, beginning with a three-day official stop in Addis Ababa until Nov 20 at the invitation of his counterpart, Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali.

This marks Anwar's first visit to Ethiopia, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Ethiopia, established in January 1965.

A chartered Malaysia Airlines aircraft carrying the prime minister left the KL International Airport (KLIA) yesterday.

During the visit, he will be received by Abiy Ahmed in an official welcoming ceremony at the National Palace before attending a bilateral meeting.

Anwar is accompanied by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Federal Territory) Datuk Seri Zaliha Mustafa, senior government officials as well as a delegation of business leaders.

The reopening of the Malaysian Embassy in Addis Ababa, the seat of the African Union, would also offer opportunities for Malaysia to bolster its relations with the larger African Union.

The prime minister is also scheduled to deliver a special lecture for the Pan-African Youth Union and Ethiopia Youth Council.



Anwar greets media representatives on the chartered plane who will be covering his working visit to Ethiopia, South Africa and Kenya. **-BERNAMAPIC**

A number of agreements, as well as memoranda of agreement, are expected to be clinched between both countries, including a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in health, an air services agreement and an MoU on cooperation in tourism.

Ethiopia, the most populous

landlocked country in the world, ranked as the 26th largest trading partner of Malaysia in the African continent in 2023.

Bilateral trade between Malaysia and Ethiopia stood at RM446.8 million as of 2023, with exports from Malaysia to Ethiopia valued at RM358.6 million,

representing a 24.6% increase from 2022.

Malaysian exports to Ethiopia comprise electrical and electronic products, palm oil and palm oil-based agricultural products, chemical and chemical products and textiles, apparels and footwear. - Bernama