

MALAYSIA DEEPENS TIES WITH S. AFRICA, BRAZIL

Nations pledge wider cooperation in trade, tech and education

KUALA LUMPUR

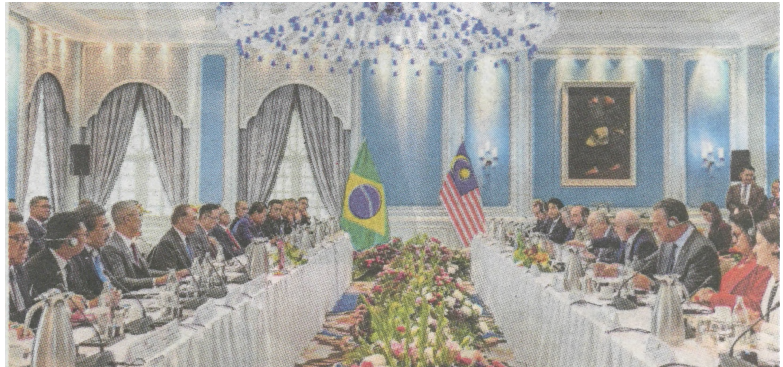
MALAYSIA has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening ties with South Africa and Brazil through enhanced cooperation in multiple strategic sectors — including semiconductors, sustainable energy, food technology and education — as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim continues high-level engagements on the sidelines of the 47th Asean Summit.

The visits by South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva underscored Malaysia's growing diplomatic and economic engagement with partners in the Global South, as both leaders pledged closer collaboration with Kuala Lumpur in key growth areas.

Ramaphosa's visit, from Oct 24 to 27, marked his first trip to Malaysia since assuming office in 2018. He was received by Anwar and accorded an official welcome at Perdana Square, Putrajaya.

At a joint press conference, Ramaphosa extended an invitation to Anwar to visit South Africa next year.

"We will be honoured to welcome you to the most beautiful country in the world, South Africa. But having come to Malaysia, I now see that South Africa has competition. Malaysia is also beautiful," he said.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim leading a bilateral meeting with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC FROM PM'S OFFICE

Ramaphosa said his meeting with Anwar marked an important step towards revitalising relations and expanding trade and investment opportunities, particularly amid global uncertainties.

He said both nations agreed to boost South-South cooperation, especially between the African Union, Southern African Development Community and Asean.

Meanwhile, Ramaphosa said his country's decision to take legal action at the International Court of Justice over Israel's actions in Gaza was guided by the same moral conviction that underpinned the global fight against apartheid.

Ramaphosa said the situation in Gaza was "a genocide unfolding before the world's eyes".

"And we, seeing the genocide that is unfolding in Gaza, saw fit that we should act in the same way the world acted when they opposed apartheid."

Page 1 pix: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at Sri Perdana in Putrajaya yesterday. On the right, Anwar welcomes South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa at Perdana Putra Complex.

He expressed gratitude to Malaysia for its strong backing of the move to bring the Gaza case before the ICJ. Anwar commended South Africa's courage in pursuing the case.

Earlier, Anwar held a joint press conference with Lula da Silva, during which both leaders agreed to bolster cooperation in semiconductors, food technology, research and education.

"Our discussions covered various areas, including trade, investment and energy. On behalf of Malaysia, I thank Brazil for its support of Petronas."

Lula, who is on a three-day visit to Malaysia, said the partnership between Malaysia and Brazil represented more than just a diplomatic relationship.

Anwar echoed this sentiment, describing Malaysia-Brazil ties as a friendship built on shared aspirations for justice, sustainability and global cooperation.