

Anwar: Malaysia to champion halal as global economic model

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will continue to position the halal industry as a global economic model and make it part of bilateral discussions with leaders.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the industry's growth was driven largely by micro, small and medium enterprises.

"More non-Muslim countries will recognise the necessity of halal-certified products, beyond food and the hospitality services, to incorporate Islamic finance, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and healthcare.

"I reiterate that halal is more than just a label, it is an international symbol of trust.

"Nearly 10,000 companies, of which more than 80 per cent are small and medium enterprises, have been certified by Jakim (Islamic Development Department Malaysia) for full compliance with halal standards.

"The government will continue to implement strategic initiatives to strengthen their role and position in the global market," he said at the launch of the Global Halal Summit 2025 yesterday.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi; Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz; Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar; and, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

Anwar said Jakim could now approve more halal applications



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visiting a booth at the Global Halal Summit 2025 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. NSTP PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

with an approval period of two weeks compared with six months previously.

"I must congratulate and thank Deputy Prime Minister Zahid because since he took the helm, the pace of approvals has accelerated, with higher standards.

"Can you imagine? Higher standards, strict monitoring and yet faster approval."

Anwar said Malaysian halal certification had been recognised in nearly 50 countries, while Jakim was working with more than 80 accredited halal certification bod-

ies from 45 countries.

"The government will continue to proactively position the halal industry as a key contributor to the national economy, particularly trade.

"Without exception, in every investment mission and bilateral engagement, whether it is with Muslim-majority countries or non-Muslim countries, Malaysia will position halal as a universal economic model.

"It will be part of bilateral discussions with leaders.

"This is, to me, a rare achieve-

ment for the country and for the halal industry."

Anwar said exports of halal products and services were projected to reach RM80 billion by 2030, driven by robust national policies and the strong track record of the Malaysia International Halal Showcase.

He said the Halal Industry Master Plan 2030 and New Industrial Master Plan 2030 provided a clear pathway to position Malaysia as the world's leading halal hub.

He said under the 13th Malaysia Plan, significant funds had been

allocated to boost the sector.

"The sector is projected to contribute RM231 billion, or 10.8 per cent, to the national gross domestic product by 2030, driven by strong demand in food, finance and tourism.

"I hope the figures are consistent because projections are projections. Sometimes we achieve the target, sometimes we surpass it, sometimes we fall short. But we are realistic in our projections."

Malaysia's halal product exports were valued at RM61.79 billion last year.