



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim receiving the Order of the Republic award from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara yesterday. **BERNAMA PIC**

MALAYSIA-TURKIYE COOPERATION

'TWO SECTORS SHOW STRONG POTENTIAL'

PM wants to expand partnership in halal industry, Islamic finance

ANKARA

Malaysia sees strong potential to expand bilateral cooperation with Turkiye in the halal industry and Islamic finance.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the sectors have been identified as new strategic areas to strengthen economic ties and create shared growth opportunities at the regional and global levels.

"I would like to expand this cooperation to the halal industry and Islamic finance, which have vast potential to be explored and developed by both countries," he said.

He stressed that meaningful bilateral relations must be reinforced through concrete economic cooperation.

Anwar welcomed the agreement by both countries to elevate cooperation to the level of a High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council.

"Such cooperation is something Malaysia rarely has with other countries, and it is built on



FARAH NABILAH WAZER

a foundation of trust, confidence and the capabilities of the Turkish people and industries in science, technology and innovation," he said in a joint statement at the Presidential Complex here yesterday.

Anwar expressed confidence that the target of US\$10 billion in bilateral trade could be achieved.

This, he said, took into account Turkiye's economic strengths and Malaysia's rapid growth, with the country emerging as a key investment destination in the semiconductor, artificial intelligence, data centre, new technology and rare earth minerals sectors.

"I believe cooperation of this nature will be more meaningful not only in terms of traditional trade, but will also encompass new areas strengthened through research, education and inter-country collaboration."

Earlier, the prime minister witnessed the exchange of seven memoranda of understanding between Malaysian and Turkish

companies across various sectors, including information and communications technology, finance and investment.

During the visit, Anwar was conferred the Order of the Republic, one of Turkiye's highest state honours.

The award was presented by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in recognition of the close and enduring ties between the two countries and Malaysia's commitment to strengthening strategic cooperation.

Anwar, in a statement, expressed his gratitude, saying the honour was for the Malaysian people rather than a personal accolade.

"I received it with deep gratitude and humility, not in a personal capacity, but on behalf of all Malaysians."

He said the conferment symbolised the strong friendship between Malaysia and Turkiye, built on trust, mutual respect and a shared vision for global peace and prosperity.

He expressed hope it would further catalyse broader and more comprehensive cooperation benefiting the people of both nations.

The Order of the Republic is typically awarded to foreign leaders who have made significant contributions to strengthening relations with Turkiye in areas such as diplomacy, security, trade and development.