

FOCUS ON HIGH-VALUE INDUSTRY TIES

KL, Ankara to tap respective strengths in defence, energy, construction, tech sectors

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MALAYSIA and Turkiye have agreed to strengthen cooperation in high-value industries, by leveraging their respective strengths in the defence, energy, construction and high-technology sectors, the prime minister said. Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Turkiye had strong capabilities in the defence and manufacturing industries, particularly in drone technology development and large-scale construction. This, he said, opened up broader opportunities for cooperation with industry players from Malaysia.

“Turkiye has its own strengths, particularly as one of the strongest in the defence industry. As a country, we have also decided to focus on the strengths of Turkiye’s nuclear companies in procurement efforts,” he said in his opening address at a roundtable session with Turkish and Malaysian industry players here on Thursday.

Anwar said Malaysia had its own strengths in the energy sector, including exports of liquefied natural gas, as well as the country’s important role in the electrical and electronics industry, semiconductors and artificial intelligence at the regional level.

He said combining the industrial strengths of both countries could create more structured and high-impact cooperation, partic-

ularly in the development of new technologies, expertise sharing and the expansion of market networks.

“The combination of Turkiye’s strengths in defence, construction and manufacturing, together with Malaysia’s advantages in high technology and energy, creates a strong foundation for long-term, results-oriented cooperation.”

He said the approach would not only enhance the value of bilateral trade and investment, but also strengthen Malaysia and Turkiye’s roles as strategic hubs in their respective regions.

The roundtable session was attended by 46 Turkish companies, including key players like Defence Technologies Engineering and Trade Inc, Turkish Aerospace Industries Inc and ASELSAN.

The meeting, organised by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and the

Malaysian Investment Development Authority, was attended by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

Also present were the representatives of seven Malaysian companies.

Meanwhile, Anwar said the establishment of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) marked a historic milestone in Malaysia-Turkiye relations, placing Malaysia among a select group of countries trusted by the republic for close collaboration.

He said the council elevated bilateral cooperation to the highest level in the diplomatic history of both nations.

The HLSCC, he added, was an exclusive mechanism established only with Turkiye’s closest and most trusted diplomatic partners.

“This is an exciting beginning because not many countries have

bilateral relations at this level.

“At this high-level council, it must be chaired jointly by the (Turkish) President (Recep Tayyip Erdogan) and myself,” said Anwar at a press conference on the final day of his official visit to Turkiye.

The prime minister also described the establishment of the HLSCC as a major step that would open a new chapter in bilateral relations, while strengthening Malaysia’s position as a key strategic partner of Turkiye.

Malaysia’s trade with Turkiye from January to November last year reached US\$4.92 billion, with the republic continuing to be an important economic partner.

In 2024, Turkiye was Malaysia’s third-largest trading partner, its largest export destination and the fourth-largest source of imports among West Asian countries — with total trade valued at US\$5.28 billion.