

Elevating strategic high-level ties

Malaysia and Turkiye move forward in next phase of collaboration

ANKARA: Malaysia and Turkiye have agreed to elevate bilateral ties into a High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to accelerate trade, investment and economic collaboration amid growing global uncertainties, says the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, in a joint press statement with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said the move reflected strong mutual trust and confidence between both countries, as enhanced cooperation would go beyond traditional trade to include new growth areas such as technology, defence, education,

research and Islamic finance.

"... and therefore we realise that bias platitudes, friendship is inadequate in this world full of uncertainties which actually requires new policies, particularly to enhance trade, investments and collaboration in all fields.

"So thank you for agreeing to enhance our cooperation into a high-level strategic cooperation council and on behalf of Malaysia, I must state that this is rare, it's not many countries that we have this sort of collaboration with."

Anwar is on a three-day official visit to Turkiye at the invitation of Erdogan, which ended yesterday,

Bernamea reported.

Earlier, Anwar and Erdogan co-chaired the inaugural Malaysia-Turkiye HLSCC meeting.

He said both countries should act swiftly to translate commitments into tangible outcomes, stressing that conventional bureaucratic processes were insufficient in an increasingly competitive and uncertain global environment.

"We have to act fast. No amount of normal bureaucratic arrangements can work in this very competitive and uncertain world."

Anwar said cooperation should

also be expanded beyond traditional sectors into new disciplines, including educational and research collaboration, supported by institutional mechanisms between the two countries.

He also highlighted Malaysia's defence cooperation with Turkiye, particularly in government-to-government procurement involving naval and aerospace assets, which he said had benefited Malaysia while introducing new collaboration principles anchored on good governance and transparency.

Touching on international issues, Anwar reaffirmed

Malaysia's support for Turkiye's efforts to address regional and global challenges, particularly the situation in Palestine and Gaza.

He condemned the continued Israeli actions in Gaza, describing them as a total abandonment for moral principles, total disregard for humanity and justice, and said Malaysia would continue to support initiatives aimed at defending oppressed communities.

"We will certainly do our best to support your venture and I've seen your initiative, which is I think unrivalled in terms of your initiative to support and help those being oppressed."