



MALAYSIA-PALESTINE MOU TO FORGE CLOSER TRADE AND BILATERAL COOPERATION, WHILE SUPPORTING PALESTINE'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY INITIATIVES

Malaysia and the State of Palestine have agreed to forge closer bilateral and economic ties through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Trade and Economic Cooperation. The MoU lays the foundation for closer collaboration in trade, investment and economic development, creating new opportunities for businesses and people in both countries.

The MoU was officially exchanged between YBhg. Dato' Hairil Yahri Yaacob, Secretary General of the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry on behalf of the Government of Malaysia, and H.E. Walid Abu Ali, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Malaysia, on behalf of the State of Palestine. The MOU exchange was witnessed by YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

This momentous occasion reaffirms Malaysia's unwavering commitment to supporting Palestine's economic resilience and recovery by, among others, supporting the development of industrial zones, strengthening Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and expanding cooperation in the halal industry, tourism, energy, and the digital economy. The MoU also aims to build capacity through training, the exchange of expertise, and the promotion of private sector partnerships.

Speaking after the ceremony, YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, said, "Malaysia stands firmly behind Palestine, to help rebuild its economy and establish the foundations for socio-economic recovery. This MoU is a testament to our shared vision of creating sustainable trade and investment linkages, particularly in sectors with high potential such as the halal industry, digital economy and SMEs. The Government of Malaysia has also agreed in principle to exempt some Palestinian agricultural and food products imported into Malaysia from custom duties. We look forward to working closely with our Palestinian partners to deliver tangible mutual benefits for our people."

In 2024, Palestine ranked as Malaysia's 15th largest trading partner in the West Asia region. Malaysia's main exports to Palestine included manufactures of plastics and processed foods, while key imports from Palestine were agricultural products such as dates.

Malaysia looks forward to deepening its economic partnership with Palestine, contributing to its development aspirations and resilience, while advancing shared principles of solidarity and prosperity.

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