



**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
MEDIA STATEMENT**

**WORKING VISIT TO MALAYSIA BY
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLANNING, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

I welcome the working visit to Malaysia from 29 March – 1 April 2019 of His Excellency Mohammad Maziad M. Altuwaijri, Minister of Economy and Planning, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting discussed a wide spectrum of economic and trade matters between Malaysia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Also present in the discussions were YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and YB Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad, Minister of Health.

Among the key matters discussed was the Malaysia – Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) as a major platform to enhance cooperation between Malaysia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and we agreed that immediate action will be taken to reactivate the JCM as the last meeting was held more than 15 years ago.

Tasked to identify trade and investment opportunities that will mutually-benefit both our countries, the JCM will also explore how best to enhance other cooperation programmes that will add value to our respective economies. In this regard, we have identified tourism, healthcare and energy sectors, including new energy sources such as solar, among our primary focus.

Towards improving the balance of trade between Malaysia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we discussed the prospects of Malaysian companies participating in various infrastructure projects in the Kingdom. In addition, the Kingdom offered scholarships and opportunities for Malaysian students to study in Saudi tertiary institutions, particularly in the areas of Science, Technology and Engineering.

The birth of New Malaysia last year has created an opportunity for both Malaysia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to trailblaze a new path forward in our bilateral relationship. The meeting was productive and, going forward, both countries have agreed to convene a working committee that will take immediate action to pursue further discussions and prepare for a new Malaysia – Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting, scheduled to take place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the middle of the year.

DATO' SERI MOHAMED AZMIN ALI
Minister of Economic Affairs
Malaysia

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