



MINISTRY OF PLANTATION AND COMMODITIES *MALAYSIA*

PRESS STATEMENT

YB DATUK SERI JOHARI BIN ABDUL GHANI, MINISTER OF PLANTATION AND COMMODITIES, TO LEAD MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO KENYA

YB Datuk Seri Johari bin Abdul Ghani, Minister of Plantation and Commodities, will lead the Malaysian delegation on an official economic and technical mission to Kenya from **6 to 8 May 2025**. This visit highlights Malaysia's stance in strengthening economic, trade, and investment relations with African nations, particularly in the commodities and plantation sectors.

During the mission, YB Datuk Seri Johari is scheduled to hold a **bilateral meeting with the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry of Kenya**. The meeting will focus on broadening cooperation in trade and investment, particularly in the **palm oil sector among other key commodities**, including exploring how both countries can contribute to the global palm oil production ecosystem.

In addition, the Minister will participate in **dialogue sessions and roundtable engagements** with industry players. These sessions aim to identify strategic areas for collaboration, strengthen trade networks, and promote **Malaysian palm oil**. Official **site visits** to selected industrial facilities will be conducted to gain insights into Kenya's production landscape and explore further collaborative opportunities.

Kenya holds **strategic importance** to Malaysia, both as a bilateral partner and as a gateway to broader regional markets. Kenya is a member of the **East African Community (EAC)**, an intergovernmental organisation comprising **eight countries**: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania—with a **combined population exceeding 330 million**. This makes the EAC a key economic bloc in Sub-Saharan Africa, offering vast potential for market expansion.

The **EAC Customs Union**, established in 2005, allows products entering any one member country—such as Kenya—to be **freely circulated across the region without additional tariffs**. This provides Malaysia with a **cost-effective and efficient platform** to enhance its exports, particularly **palm oil**, to the broader East African market.

Kenya is currently **Malaysia's largest importer of palm oil** in the Sub-Saharan African region. In **2024 alone**, Kenya accounted for **42% of Malaysia's total palm oil exports to Sub-Saharan Africa**, with Malaysia maintaining a dominant **market share of 85%** in the country.

Moreover, Kenya plays a leading role in shaping regional trade policies and currently holds the position of **Chair of both the EAC Heads of State Summit and the EAC Council of Ministers**. This positions Kenya as a **highly influential partner** in advancing regional trade integration and offers Malaysia a strategic entry point into broader African markets.

This economic mission represents a **timely and strategic platform** to deepen **Malaysia–Kenya bilateral cooperation**, leverage Kenya's regional leadership, and expand Malaysia's footprint in East Africa. It reaffirms Malaysia's commitment to **responsible, sustainable, and mutually beneficial trade practices**, while identifying new global opportunities for growth in the commodity sector.

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6 MAY 2025