

Malaysia ready to cooperate with Afghanistan – PM

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Yoursay

Malaysia is ready to cooperate and improve ties with Afghanistan, a country under Taliban administration that the United Nations earlier this month described as the most repressive country in the world for women's and girls' rights.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia's position had been conveyed to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which is ready to assist in terms of Malaysia's relationship with the Aghan government.

However, he said Malaysia stands firm on the issue of women's education and is of the opinion that women's right to education cannot be denied.

"The problem now is their attitude towards women's education, whether they want to build a university specifically for women or a special women's school, it's their choice, but they cannot deny women's right to education," he told a media conference.

Earlier, Anwar received a courtesy call from OIC secretary-general Hissein Brahim Taha and the OIC delegation after performing the umrah in Mekah.

Anwar, who was accompanied by his wife Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir, and Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil arrived at the King Abdulaziz International Airport at 6.40am local time to start his three-day official visit to the kingdom.

International media previously reported that the Afghan government prevents girls from obtaining education beyond the sixth grade and women from public spaces like parks and gymnasiums.

However, last Friday, acting foreign minister of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi reportedly said girls will be allowed to return to schools as soon as internal issues in the country are resolved.

- Bernama

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