

## **We're helping friends, PM denies meddling in Thai-Cambodia dispute**

**Malaysiakini**

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Malaysia's involvement in the Thailand-Cambodia border dispute is purely an act of friendship, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said, dismissing accusations that Putrajaya was meddling in the conflict between the two neighbouring countries.

Speaking to reporters in Johannesburg, South Africa, on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders Summit, Anwar stressed that Malaysia's role has been consistent and limited, which is to provide a platform for dialogue.

"It is not right for some quarters in Thailand to suggest that we interfere. No way do we interfere.

"Even from the start, I have explained and made it clear that Malaysia's role is to facilitate their discussions," he was reported as stating.

Anwar emphasised that both Thailand and Cambodia have the legitimacy and capability to resolve their own issues.

Malaysia's involvement, he said, was confined to hosting the meetings, with the timing and parameters fully decided by the two governments themselves.

He added that Malaysia's facilitation role had the backing of all Asean leaders.

"We want to facilitate because we want to ensure there is peace," he noted.

### **M'sia remains committed**

Asked whether calls for Malaysia to step back would affect Putrajaya's efforts, Anwar was firm.

"On the contrary, we must remain committed to our initial position on what is happening there (along the Thai-Cambodian border).

"I believe both governments have already clarified to their people about Malaysia's position. I don't think these calls and statements should deter us from our task," he said.

On Oct 26, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet signed the "KL Peace Accord" - a landmark peace deal inked on the sidelines of the 47th Asean Summit, with Anwar and United States President Donald Trump serving as witnesses.

Yesterday, Malaysiakini reported that protesters gathered outside the Malaysian embassy in Bangkok, demanding that Anwar stop “interfering” in Thailand’s management of its border dispute with Cambodia.

The rally was led by the nationalist coalition United Power of the Land to Protect Sovereignty, known in Thai as “Ruam Palang Phaen Din Pok Pong Athipatai.”

Prominent figures in attendance included activist Pichit Chaimongkol, former senator Kaewsan Atibodhi, former red-shirt leader Jatuporn Prompan, and lawyer Nitithorn Lamlua.

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