

PALESTINE ACCREDITED EMBASSY IN JORDAN

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Move will allow
Malaysia to extend
aid to Palestinians,
says PM at summit

BAKU

As a counter to Israel's claim of Jerusalem as its capital and Western countries' support of it, Malaysia will open an embassy accredited to Palestine.

The embassy, to be located in Jordan, will enable Malaysia to provide support and assistance to embattled Palestine.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced this yesterday when addressing delegates at the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at the Baku Congress Centre here.

He said the brutal Israeli regime was expanding illegal settlements on land rightfully belonging to the Palestinians.

"Worst still, Israel has announced that it intends to annex part of the West Bank, a move that clearly violates international law.

"On our part, Malaysia will open an embassy accredited to Palestine. We know that Israel will not allow Malaysia to open an embassy in the occupied territory. As such, it will be located



MIMI
SYED
YUSOF

in Jordan.

"The embassy will allow us to extend aid to the Palestinians more easily, but Israel will find a way to ensure no aid reaches Palestine."

He said Israel continued to "choke the life out of Palestine and the Palestinians" by confiscating more and more Palestinian land until there was none left.

Dr Mahathir, alluding to the United Nations, said the international community was not doing much to address the humanitarian issue.

"It is unfortunate that a world organisation set up by powerful nations now see those very people ignoring the world body's resolutions. Now we see others doing the same."

He urged NAM member countries that had relocated their embassies to Jerusalem or were planning to do so to reconsider their decision.

Earlier, he spoke on the impact of trade wars, which he said had

caused havoc on economies.

He said the uncertainties caused had led nations becoming unable to plan and develop themselves.

"A trade war between the world's largest economies is bound to fracture the world trading system.

"Tariffs, counter tariffs and other impediments to free trade may become the new normal.

"The United States-China mega trade war may be a symptom of something far worse — growing rivalry between the world's two biggest powers, lasting indefinitely."

Unfortunately, he said, Malaysia was caught in the middle by being economically linked to both markets and due to its geographical location.

Reiterating what he said at the United Nations General Assembly in New York recently, Dr Mahathir said war was not a solution to settling disputes.

He said negotiating or submitting to arbitration by third parties could help settle disputes.

"Or resort to the courts of law, such as the International Court of Justice.

"We say this because Malaysia does not just talk. We do. We settle disputes with our neighbours through negotiations and through the World Court. We won some and we lost some. But no one has been killed."