



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking during the Ministers' Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

PM: Petronas to continue oil exploration in South China Sea

PETROLIAM Nasional Bhd (Petronas) will continue with its oil exploration in the South China Sea, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

This is despite issues surrounding claims in the South China Sea with China.

He, however, said Malaysia was open and ready to negotiate if the republic felt that the area was its territory.

Anwar said the matter was raised with China President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang during his visit to the country recently.

"This is because there are overlapping claims by both sides, as Petronas is carrying out large-scale activities in the said waters, which are claimed by China.

"I told the president and the prime minister that Malaysia considers the said waters to be Malaysian territory, and as such Petronas will continue to explore in that area.

"However, if China feels that it is its right, we are open for negotiations," he said in his reply during the prime minister's question time in the Dewan Rakyat.

Anwar was responding to an additional question from Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan (PN-Kota Baru).

Takiyuddin asked if the prime minister had discussed with Chinese leaders regarding security in the region, especially with the presence of Chinese troops in the South China Sea.