



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah engaged in a discussion at the Seri Perdana complex in Putrajaya on Thursday. BERNAMA PIC

## MALAYSIA-BRUNEI LEADERS' CONSULTATION

# 'ASEAN NEEDS TO STAY UNITED, RELEVANT'

This is to maintain bloc's central role in dealing with opportunities and challenges, say PM and Brunei sultan

### PUTRAJAYA

**P** RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah stressed the need for Asean to remain united and relevant.

This is to maintain Asean's central role as a key driving force that is effective and responsive in dealing with future opportunities and challenges.

Both leaders said this in a joint statement on Thursday after the 24th Malaysia-Brunei Darussalam Annual Leaders' Consultation here.

"They further reaffirmed their commitment to continue working with Asean dialogue partners and maintain Asean's outward-looking approach based on mutual interest and benefit to further advance Asean's community-building efforts," the statement read.

Both leaders also discussed the recent developments in Myanmar and expressed strong concerns regarding the ongoing violence in the country.

"Both leaders called on Myanmar to fully implement the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) and reiterated the unified position that the 5PC remains Asean's main reference to address the political crisis in Myanmar."

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work closely within Asean and other external partners, including the United Nations, to encourage progress in the implementation of the 5PC in its entirety, in line with Asean leaders' decision at the 42nd Asean Summit, with the end goal of finding a peaceful and durable solution in the interest of the people of Myanmar.

The situation in the occupied Palestinian territories was also discussed by both leaders, where,

in the statement, they noted with concern that this year marked the 75th anniversary of the Nakba.

Nakba refers to the mass displacement of Palestinians and dispossession of their lands during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

"The leaders called on the UN Security Council and members of the international community to demand that the occupying power halt its heinous crimes against humanity, as well as apartheid policies against the Palestinians, with a view to ending the occupation and achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, in line with international law and all relevant UNSC resolutions."

Both leaders reaffirmed their unwavering position that Palestinians deserve their right to an independent and sovereign state of their own, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, it added.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and his consort, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha, arrived on Wednesday for a three-day state visit to Malaysia until yesterday, which coincided with the annual leaders' consultation. **Bernama**