

ANWAR SLAMS HYPOCRISY OVER GAZA

Palestinian conflict a humanitarian issue and not political, says PM

TOKYO

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim highlighted the hypocrisy of “so-called countries that promote democracy and human rights” in their response to the Gaza conflict.

“I’m sick of this hypocrisy. It’s

not politics. These are humanitarian issues. I would say such hypocrisy is (happening in) many of the so-called countries that promote democracy and human rights,” Anwar told journalist Norman Goh of Japanese media outlet Nikkei Asia in an interview on Sunday.

Goh had shared Anwar’s re-

marks on the X social media platform.

Israel’s latest aggression in Gaza, which began on Oct 7, has resulted in the loss of about 19,000 Palestinian lives and left over 50,000 injured.

A ceasefire remains elusive, with the United States vetoing a United Nations Security Council resolution for an “immediate humanitarian ceasefire” in Gaza.

Anwar also acknowledged the issues face by Asean, especially regarding human rights viola-

tions in Myanmar following the military coup in February 2021.

He highlighted Asean’s efforts to resolve the crisis in Myanmar through the Five-Point Consensus peace roadmap.

Anwar also commented on the tensions in the South China Sea where several Asean member states, including Malaysia, have overlapping territorial claims with China.

He had emphasised the need to avoid hostilities and maintain good relations with China.

“No country should unilaterally decide on the sovereignty and territorial integrity (of another). And we must negotiate as Asean or bilaterally,” he was quoted as saying.

Anwar also said taking sides in the tensions between the US and China would not benefit Malaysia and the region must remain a zone of peace.

He said Malaysia’s position was to be friends and engage with all parties, and not to be a pawn of any power. **Bernama**