

PM highlights hypocrisy of nations championing human rights

TOKYO: In an exclusive interview with Japan's leading media group The Nikkei, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim once again highlighted the hypocrisy of "so-called countries that promote democracy and human rights" with regard to the crisis in Gaza.

The insightful interview by journalist Norman Goh on the sidelines of the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit on Sunday is featured in *Nikkei Asia*, the flagship publication of Nikkei Inc, which is the world's largest financial newspaper.

"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's statement on the conflict was shared by Goh on X.

The latest conflict in Gaza, which began on Oct 7, has resulted in the loss of about 19,000 Palestinian lives and left more than 50,000 injured, as reported by Gaza's health authorities.

A permanent ceasefire remains elusive, with the United States vetoing a United Nations Security Council resolution on Gaza, which called for an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire."

Anwar also acknowledged the humanitarian issues faced by Asean member states, especially Myanmar's human rights violations following the military coup in February 2021.

He highlighted the efforts undertaken by Asean and Myanmar's immediate neighbours within a five-point consensus peace roadmap to find a solution to the Myanmar issue.

Anwar also commented on the tensions in the South China Sea, where several Asean member states, including Malaysia, are involved in overlapping territorial claims with China, emphasising the need to avoid hostilities and maintain good relations with China.

"No country should unilaterally decide on sovereignty and territorial integrity. We must negotiate as Asean or bilaterally."

On the China-US conflict, Anwar stressed that taking sides would not benefit Malaysia, and the region must remain a zone of peace.

Malaysia's basic position is to be friends and engage with all parties, and not be perceived as being pawns of any power. - Bernama