

# No compromise in border pact with Indonesia: PM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The recently signed Malaysia-Indonesia maritime border agreement does not in any way put the interests, rights and sovereignty of the country at stake, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Malaysia will never compromise on sovereignty and the agreement was made carefully, taking into account the views of relevant parties, and only involved areas agreed upon by both countries.

"Is it comprehensive? Yes, it is a comprehensive settlement. But what has not been agreed upon is a small area involving the Sabah border. Indonesia is clear with

our demands and we are also clear with their demands.

"The issue of compromise does not arise. The country's sovereignty cannot be sacrificed. We are firm in our stand that we will not sacrifice an inch of our land," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (PN-Pagoh), who wanted to know whether the agreement was comprehensive in safeguarding the country's maritime rights and sovereignty.

Anwar said before the agreement was signed, the government had taken into

account the views of various parties such as experts from the Maritime Department, Foreign Ministry, Survey and Mapping Department, National Hydrographic Centre and the Attorney-General's Chambers.

"After they studied it thoroughly and at the final meeting with me, only after we were all satisfied did we seal the deal. As neighbouring countries, we must resolve matters that have been ongoing for 18 years.

"That is why on June 8, we signed the agreement based on our interests, a border that we do not dispute, and based on international laws, especially the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention." - Bernama