

'NETHERLANDS RESPECTS OUR STANCE'

Country agrees there should an immediate ceasefire to Israeli attacks, says PM

PUTRAJAYA

THE Netherlands respects Malaysia's stance on the Palestinian issue and agrees that there should be an immediate ceasefire to stop the Israeli attacks in Palestine, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said this was conveyed to him by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte during their meeting at Seri Perdana here in conjunction with Rutte's two-day working visit to Malaysia.

"Firstly, he agreed that there should be an immediate ceasefire to stop the attacks. He told me to give him time to contact the Is-

raeli leader, and also through Qatar, so that there could be negotiations to stop the attacks.

"Secondly, he agreed that there should be additional measures that he could take up with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. So I am at least satisfied that he understands our stance," he said after the meeting.

The war in Palestine involving Hamas, the ruling authority in Gaza, and the Israeli regime has resulted in thousands of deaths on both sides since Oct 7.

At the "Malaysia Stands with Palestine" rally on Oct 24, Anwar had said as a sovereign nation, Malaysia would remain independent and continue to defend the country's freedom, as well as advocate for the freedom of the Palestinian people.

Anwar praised Rutte for taking a soft approach in listening and sharing his views on the Palestinian issue, in addition to giving an assurance that Malaysia's views would be brought to the attention of other leaders in Europe.

"He admits that the sentiment of the Dutch people has changed. They used to support the Israeli attacks and the European stance, but now the majority of them no longer agree with the continued attacks."

He said Israel's aggressive attacks on innocent Palestinians, including children and women, as well as on hospitals and schools in Gaza, must stop.

"This (attacks on Palestine) is just the most offensive and uncivilised work." **Bernama**