



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (fourth from right) launching the Malaysian Digital Expo Grand Finale in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil (fifth from right). PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

PALESTINE-ISRAEL ISSUE

MUSLIM NATIONS TO MEET ON CONFLICT

PM says China, Russia and several other countries could be invited

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MALAYSIA and other Muslim countries will convene for an emergency meeting

to discuss the Palestine-Israel conflict.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said they were discussing the selection of invited members and the date of the meeting.

"We have suggested extending invitations to include China, Russia, Bolivia, Ireland and Brazil, which share a similar stance with us.

"But we need to engage in discussions to reach a consensus since, otherwise, we might have only Muslim countries in attendance.

"*InsyAllah*, I will attend the meeting by all means necessary," he said after launching the Malaysian Digital Expo Grand Finale yesterday.

He expressed Malaysia's support for a proposal by Turkiye and Saudi Arabia to convene an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation meeting to discuss the Palestine issue.

Earlier, he slammed parties who politicised and made use of the Palestinian issue to berate others.

"People are dying, homes and many areas are destroyed. We should not politicise this and capitalise on the misery of others."

He said those leveraging the issue for political mileage should focus on helping Palestinians.

He gave his assurance that he was doing everything possible, adding that not all of it could be publicised.

"Not everything can be shared because our priority, as I have discussed with the Dutch and Japanese prime ministers, is to look for a solution to stop the attack, the killing of children, women and Palestinians.

"Secondly is to provide food and medical aid."

In Putrajaya, at the monthly Prime Minister's Department gathering earlier, he reiterated the nation's support for the Palestinian cause through bilateral relations with other countries.

He said Malaysia's good relations with Egypt had helped to expedite the transfer of Malaysian humanitarian aid to Palestine.

"During a meeting with (Egyptian) President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, I asked for priority to be given to humanitarian aid from Malaysia and, *alhamdulillah*, he kept his promise. Our (aid) was among the earliest to cross the border."

He said he also expressed the country's stance in a four-eyed

meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Sunday.

"Japan's policy, when it comes to investments and friendship, is with us, but its foreign policy is slanted towards the West, especially the United States, probably due to geopolitical factors as the country is near North Korea and China.

"I said we don't take an aggressive approach and don't support violence.

"However, if a prefecture, (say), Osaka or Hiroshima, is controlled by others, people will stay silent. That's what is happening in Palestine."

Anwar said Kishida expressed his support for a ceasefire and increase in humanitarian aid for Palestine.

Similarly, Malaysia also expressed its views during Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's visit here, he said.

"I said you (Rutte) represent a more democratic (country) and are even more concerned about humanitarian issues. (You) aren't prejudiced against any group.

"It's their choice to support Israel, but don't be cruel to Palestine. We conveyed this politely during the closed-door meeting. I asked that he (Rutte) relay this to European countries."

While there was no sign of Israel ceasing its attacks on Gaza, Anwar said there was a "positive side" as the conflict was being discussed in the Western world, which had not happen before. Additional reporting by Nuradz-irrahmah Daim