

'POLITICAL MANIPULATION'

ANWAR WARNS THOSE LINKING HIM TO ISRAEL

He vows action against slanderous statements in response to 'Harakah' report

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday issued a stern warning to certain quarters attempting to slanderously link him to Israel.

He said he would not tolerate any disrespectful statements against him that violated decorum.

"(I) will also not hesitate to take strong action against anyone if

such slander is repeated, he added.

Anwar was responding to a report recently published by *Harakah* that claimed the country, under Anwar's administration, was hesitant to show support for Palestine.

At the same time, he also urged all quarters not to politicise the Palestine-Israel conflict.

"In July 2023, the issue of Palestinian rights was raised at The Hague International Court of Justice and Malaysia had indicated its support for the Palestinian cause.

"Hence, please comprehend the issue and do not manipulate it for political purposes.

"Regardless of party, everyone must come together to show support so that the people and the world know that Malaysia is united in supporting the struggles of the Palestinians."

Meanwhile, the prime minister urged the public, especially

members of the media, to refrain from referring to Hamas as a militant group and to provide a better understanding of Israel's brutality and ethnic-cleansing measures.

During the prime minister's question time in the Dewan Rakyat, Anwar said such awareness among media publications must be established to adhere to the concerns and sensitivities of the people, as well as to recognise the rights of Palestinians.

"I agree that the media and the country (must not view Hamas as a militant group). (At one period) the African National Congress was also accused of being terrorists, but the late Tunku Abdul Rahman gave his support and it (the support) continued.

"These were all leaders before me and they did not recognise the statement made by the West that Nelson Mandela was the head of terrorists.

"Hence, I agree that there must



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says the issue of Palestinian rights has been raised at The Hague International Court of Justice in July, and Malaysia has supported the Palestinian cause. BERNAMA PIC

be awareness in Malaysia, where the media must understand the concerns and sensitivities of the people, as well as recognise the Palestinians' rights over their land, of which they had been dispossessed, and that their wealth and dignity continue to be abused."

Anwar said this in response to Machang member of parliament Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal on the government's stance towards reports published by the media, which referred

Hamas as a militant group.

"(Turkish) President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Hamas is not a militant group, but rather a liberation group. However, if we take a look at it, many of our local media still refer to Hamas as a militant or terrorist group, whether in Mandarin or English.

"Hence, I hope that you (Anwar) can advise and take editorial action against these misleading reports as this is not only the government's stance, but your stance," said Wan Fayhsal.