

## SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

# KL TO RAISE GAZA CONFLICT AT APEC

**Anwar gives this assurance amid calls by some leaders to boycott the event**

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Malaysia will raise the Israel-Palestine conflict at the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) Economic Leaders' Week in San Francisco that runs from Saturday to Nov 17.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim gave this assurance amid calls by some leaders to boycott Apec as a show of solidarity with Palestine.

"We will discuss developments and carry out our duty to the best of our ability," he said after launching the MPOB International Palm Oil Congress and Exhibition.

Anwar, during the Finance



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim looking at a palm oil-based product after launching the MPOB International Palm Oil Congress and Exhibition at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, yesterday, PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

Ministry's monthly assembly on Tuesday, had said that while the government did not agree with the United States' stance on the war, it also had the priority to protect the country's interests in terms of economy, security and diplomatic relations.

"All Asean leaders will attend and other Apec member states will also attend.

"We do not agree with the United States' stance (on the Israel-Palestine war), but it is our priority to maintain diplomatic re-

lations, while not budging from our stand on supporting justice.

"I know this decision will not please all parties, but even so, do not punish me by labelling me as pro-Israel," he had said.

Last week at the Dewan Rakyat, Perikatan Nasional's Machang member of parliament Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad asked Anwar if Malaysia was planning to boycott Apec as a show of solidarity with Palestine.

In reply, Anwar had said the government was checking with

several Asian countries, including China, before deciding on whether to boycott the meeting.

Anwar's plan to bring up the conflict, which has seen more than 10,000 Gazans killed, many of them women and children, is consistent with the government's action.

At the Asean Summit in Jakarta, he had brought up the issue in front of Asean leaders as well as those from China and India.

Also in attendance was US Vice-President Kamala Harris.