

# Good ties with Egypt enabled M'sian aid to reach Gaza: PM

**PUTRAJAYA:** Cordial relations between Malaysia and Egypt have enabled the country's humanitarian aid to be sent to the people of Palestine, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim,

He said the effort was realised when Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi facilitated the despatching of humanitarian aid from Malaysia.

"In the meeting (with Abdel Fattah), his sentiment was good and I requested him to give priority to the humanitarian aid from Malaysia.

"*Alhamdulillah*, he kept his promise. Our aircraft arrived among the fastest, and (the aid) was allowed to cross the border. That's why bilateral relations need to be improved," he said at a gathering with staff of the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

> Medical items, baby products and food totalling 20 tonnes handed to Red Crescent Society to be delivered to Palestinians

Last Saturday, the cargo plane carrying the first shipment of Malaysian humanitarian aid for Palestine, through *Ops Ihsan*, landed safely at El-Arish Military Airport in Egypt.

Twenty tonnes of assistance in the form of medical items, baby products and food were handed to representatives of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society to be taken into Gaza through the Rafah border crossing.

*Ops Ihsan* was mobilised by the Malaysia Humanitarian Aid and Relief, Global Peace Mission

Malaysia, Red A Humanitarian Development Global, Pertubuhan Ihsan Johor, BeVital as well as Majlis Perundangan Pertubuhan Islam Malaysia as the main coordinator, along with 38 other non-governmental organisations.

Anwar said the issue in Palestine is getting more worrisome with no sign that Israel would stop its attacks on the country.

He said discussions with leaders of the Arab world should be held immediately to enable the fate of the Palestinian people to be defended, *Bernama* reported.

Anwar said developments in the western world regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict showed positive signs because the issue in Gaza had never been discussed openly before.

"There are huge gatherings and demonstrations in Europe," he said, stressing the need for the international community to call for an end to the attacks in Palestine.

He added that Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who met him during their visits to Malaysia, also supported the stand to stop the attacks on Palestine.

"He (Rutte) is aware that two-thirds (of the Dutch people) sympathise with Palestine."

The latest fighting in Palestine involving Hamas and the Israeli regime since Oct 7 has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives.