

'WE ACCEPT RISKS OF PALESTINE STAND'

Some Western countries may react but our concern is plight of Gazans, says PM

RIYADH

DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia anticipates that there will be reactions from some countries in the West over Malaysia's assertive advocacy for the Palestinian people.

The prime minister said he had to raise the issue of Palestine and the atrocities committed by Israel



ZAINUDIN ISA

in Gaza, even though there might be some risks.

"I have no choice. When it comes to diplomacy, there are things we can tolerate.

"But, at the same time, there is suffering in Gaza, with children and women killed.

"Yes, there is a risk, but our concern is what the Palestinian people are facing," he told

Malaysian journalists before concluding his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister was in the Gulf kingdom for the Asean-Gulf Cooperation Council Summit here.

Anwar said Malaysia was not alone in advocating for Palestine and condemning the violence of the Israeli government.

"There is a consensus, not just on the issue of humanity in Gaza but its implications on the future of international politics," he said.

Asked if Malaysia would take the initiative to take Israel to the International Court of Justice, Anwar said the government had expressed its views.

"I have had discussions with (the leaders of other) Asean countries,

the ruler of Bahrain (Hamad bin Isa bin Salman), the president of the United Arab Emirates (Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan) and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman.

"I will also leave Riyadh to meet (Turkish President) Recep Tayyip Erdogan and (Egyptian President) Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi. All of them have agreed.

"We do not want to be alone in addressing the issue of Palestine. We will discuss with them, and I have already called many other world leaders to reach a consensus in making a decision."

The prime minister also reiterated that while Malaysia was his priority, advocating for Palestinians and their rights was a humanitarian responsibility.

Anwar, accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambray Abdul Kadir, later flew to Istanbul, where he is scheduled to meet Erdogan.

After meeting Erdogan, Anwar is scheduled to proceed to Cairo, to meet El-Sisi and discuss the reopening of the Rafah crossing to allow food, water and medicines to reach Palestine.

Wisma Putra said the visits to Turkiye and Egypt reflected Malaysia's commitment to Palestine.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at Al Yamamah Palace in Riyadh on Saturday.