



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is welcomed by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi at the Al-Ittihadiya Palace on Monday. PIC COURTESY OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

COLLECTIVE VIEW

'WEST MUST PRESSURE ISRAEL OVER GAZA WAR'

Anwar and Sisi agree that Western nations must exert pressure on regime to end Gaza siege

CAIRO

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi are in

agreement that Western countries should exert pressure on the Israeli regime to cease its attacks on Gaza.

Both leaders concurred that public facilities in Gaza, such as schools and hospitals, should not be bombed and destroyed by the regime, he said.

"The sufferings of the people of Gaza are at a critical level. And that was what we agreed upon during the discussion (with Sisi)," Anwar told Malaysian media during a press conference at the end of his two-day working visit to Egypt on Monday.

Anwar said the Egyptian government was undertaking major efforts to channel humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza and that

Malaysia would cooperate and support its actions.

Anwar said Malaysia would continue to contact Western and Eastern countries to urge them to act so that peace would prevail and humanitarian aid could be delivered to Gaza.

"The clear objective is to defend the rights and sovereignty of the Palestinian state. If this is not achieved, there will be no solution, no lasting peace.

"This is the position shared with our allies, including Egypt, and yesterday (Sunday) in Turkiye, and before that in Riyadh. This is our collective view," he said.

Anwar expressed his gratitude to Sisi for accommodating their meeting, despite the short notice given.

Anwar said that while their meeting's primary focus was on the Gaza conflict, they also discussed other matters, including regional issues and the future of Arab and Islamic countries.

Bilateral trade cooperation and investment between both nations were also discussed, he added.

"I have asked the foreign minister, along with the committee (to be formed later), to identify areas of cooperation that can be enhanced," he said.

Anwar also announced that Sisi had agreed to make an official visit to Malaysia early next year.

He said the visit was significant as it has been decades since an Egyptian president had visited Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Anwar has described the Saudi Arabian government's recognition of the National Renewable Energy Roadmap (NREP) initiative as proof that it followed closely developments in Malaysia.

He said the recognition also proved that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was interested in the initiatives undertaken by Malaysia.

"He (the crown prince) is impressed (by the initiative) and is keen on cooperation regarding new energy sources, hydrogen, green hydrogen and the aspects mentioned in Malaysia's energy transition direction.

"I'm impressed (by the crown prince's interest in it) because it seems that the Arab country takes a serious view of recent developments in Malaysia."

In a joint statement during Anwar's recent working visit to Riyadh, the Saudi government acknowledged Malaysia's NREP initiative as a step towards the transition to green energy.

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