

Aid to Gaza must be needs-based, PM tells NGOs

CAIRO: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has advised Malaysian volunteer teams and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) wishing to provide aid to the victims of the conflict in Gaza to ensure that their assistance is needs-based.

The prime minister acknowledged that their intention was good, but he emphasised the importance of consultations with the relevant authorities before delivering aid to ensure it truly benefited the victims.

“Don’t buy (items for donations)

based on our preferences, this is the issue with the organisations that send aid. Their (donors) intentions are good, but sometimes, what is bought is not what the people need. We need to hear from Gazans what they need.

“In the case of medicine, there are several types, and they must be properly labelled. Therefore, there are methods that must be followed. The same goes for food, they (Gazans) have no cooking facilities, so they need ready-to-eat canned food. Some have in-

formed that they do not eat instant noodles. So, in this matter, don’t buy until we know (what the Gazans need),” he said at the end of his two-day working visit to Egypt on Monday.

Anwar said this while commenting on his meeting with Egyptian Red Crescent Society president Dr Ramy el-Nazer, which was attended by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambray Abd Kadir, Malaysian Ambassador to Egypt Zamani Ismail and Mercy Malaysia executive coun-

cil member Datin Azura Ibrahim.

Anwar reminded organisations that were not registered, non-transparent and with improper accounts not to collect donations as the victims there would not be able to receive the aid.

On clothing assistance, Anwar said the government would fly the aid to Egypt before handing it over to the Red Crescent Society to be sent to Gaza.

He said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi would speed up the approval for the aid. **Bernama**