

18TH ASEAN-EAST ASIA SUMMIT

PM: WORLD MUST TACKLE ISLAMOPHOBIA

The defamation of any religion infringes human rights, says Anwar

JAKARTA

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday highlighted the need for the international community to address the rise of Islamophobia and defamation of any religion.

Speaking at the 18th Asean-East Asia Summit (EAS) here, he said such forms of defamation were an infringement of human rights and needed to be addressed by the global community.

"I wish to refer to the global rise of fascism and Islamophobia.

"We reiterate our position that the defamation of any religion is an infringement of human rights, and derogation of the right to religion and belief.

"And I think this forum, with the presence of prominent leaders, must try and resolve this problem and these issues within these coming days."



AHMAD FAIRUZ OTHMAN

Besides the 10 Asean members, the summit includes representatives from the governments of the bloc's dialogue partners, such as Australia, China, Japan, India, New Zealand, South Korea and the United States.

Anwar touched on conflicts outside the Asean region, which were included in the Asean chairman's statement issued at the 43rd Asean Summit and Related Summit.

"The international community cannot disregard Israel's continuous assault on the fundamental right, livelihood and dignity of Palestinians and the people of all faiths in their own land."

He said the conflict might be something that some Asean members chose not to raise, but



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim arriving at the 18th Asean-East Asia Summit in Jakarta yesterday. With him are Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States Vice-President Kamala Harris. AFP PIC

it had to be highlighted in a platform, such as this summit.

"I want to take note here, about the concern of many of us and which has not been talked about publicly, about the disproportionate treatment in regard to the conflict in Ukraine and the 75-year conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory."

He said Malaysia rejected any regression in the situation in Ukraine and called for meaningful dialogue to reach an amicable resolution.

He said with the geopolitical dynamics in the world, it might be more imperative for the summit's participating countries to strengthen their commitment to its fundamental principles.

"The EAS platform should be fully used as a mechanism of cooperation in which differences are managed in an inclusive and constructive manner.

"In keeping with the objectives of preserving peace, prosperity and stability in the Asia-Pacific

and Indian Ocean regions, we call on our partners to work with Asean to implement the four-key areas of the Asean Outlook on the Indo-Pacific: maritime cooperation, connectivity, sustainable development goals and economic cooperation."

On the South China Sea, he said Malaysia was committed to the peaceful resolution of any dispute in the territory in accordance with recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

He said China, an Asean dialogue partner, had assured the bloc that it would strive for peace and stability in the region.

"We were reassured by (Chinese) Prime Minister Li Qiang's firm commitment and we would call on other parties to give a similar commitment to ensure there is peace and stability in the region."

He said Malaysia was also concerned about the situation in

North Korea in terms of its nuclear programme.

"The incessant launching of ballistic missiles and nuclear programmes violates the United Nations Security Council's resolution.

"And I don't think we at this forum can ignore the concerns of neighbours of countries in this region."

He reiterated Asean's stance on the situation in Myanmar and noted how any further failure to handle the problem could affect other Asian states, including Bangladesh.

"We commend Indonesia's relentless initiative to seek an amicable resolution, based on the Five Point Consensus.

"But the insistence of the military junta seems to be the major stumbling block.

"We are concerned because it has ramifications not only in Bangladesh but also Malaysia.

"We have to handle more than 200,000 migrants."