

PM TO ADDRESS UN IN MAIDEN APPEARANCE

He will share Malaysia's efforts in tackling climate change, achieving 2030 Agenda



**AHMAD ZAINI
KAMARUZZAMAN**

NEW YORK

DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim will make his first appearance as Malaysia's prime minister at the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) this week.

The UNGA marks the annual assembly of the UN, which comprises 193 nations and two observer states.

Malaysia joined the world body on Sept 17, 1957, the 82nd country to do so, not long after it gained independence on Aug 31 that year.

The UNGA is generally attended by government leaders, heads of state or their representatives to discuss a host of issues of common interest. They also deliver their countries' statements.

More than 140 government leaders and heads of state, six vice-presidents, four deputy prime ministers and 30 ministers are scheduled to take the stage at the UNGA to deliver their countries' statements.



Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir (centre) speaking at a press conference in New York City on Monday. BERNAMA PIC

A total of 99 heads of state, 58 heads of government and 35 ministers are set to deliver their countries' statements during the general debate session from Sept 19 to 26.

All Malaysian prime ministers have attended the UNGA, which is the largest gathering of world leaders under the UN. But there have been occasions when deputy prime ministers or ministers attended the gathering due to the prime minister's unavailability.

The theme for this year's assembly is "Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all".

The focus is on regaining momentum and accelerating actions towards sustainable development.

Anwar will be in New York from Sept 20 to 23 and is scheduled to take the stage at 10am Malaysia time on Friday.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, at a press conference with Malaysian media, said in line with the theme, the prime minister will share

Malaysia's efforts in tackling climate change and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Anwar will also share his views on global issues and the role the global community needs to play to collectively tackle the challenges.

"Many world leaders we've spoken to before have expressed their eagerness to hear the prime minister's speech at the assembly due to his experience and leadership."

World leaders scheduled to attend include United States President Joe Biden and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who will meet to discuss, among others, Russia's military incursion.

Notable absentees include French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who are unable to attend due to domestic commitments.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will also be absent due to concerns of being arrested if he travels abroad.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has yet to make an appearance at the assembly.

The absence of some big names at the UNGA is not unusual.