

Govt **keeping tabs** on conflict in Middle East: Anwar

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► 'Nation joins civilised world to urge Israeli regime not to aggravate an already extremely tense situation further'

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will continue to closely monitor developments in the conflict-stricken areas of the Middle East and take proactive measures to ensure the safety, welfare and well-being of Malaysians, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

In a post on his Facebook page, Anwar said the nation's interests would always be the top

priority, and that he himself had chaired a National Security Council meeting yesterday to further discuss the situation there.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Khaled Nordin, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali and other senior government officials.

He said the discussions and consecutive meetings being held for two days demonstrate the serious attention given by the government to the Middle East situation, and ensure that Malaysia and its people are not affected by the conflict.

Anwar said Malaysia joins all of the civilised world to urge the Zionist Israeli regime not to aggravate an already extremely tense situation

further, Bernama reported.

"There are clear signs that the international community does not want to see a worsening situation. The launching of drones by Iran is a legitimate action following the barbarous attack by the Zionist regime of Israel on the Iranian Embassy in Damascus.

"We are pleased to note the assurances given by the Iranian government that unless further attacked by the Zionist Israeli regime, this will be their only reaction."

Anwar said the key to resolving this issue is the just and immediate resolution of the inhumane situation in Gaza.

"Therefore, global attention must be devoted fully to it, with no distractions. There must be a durable ceasefire which will enable the passage of humanitarian aid. In this connection, 100 containers (of humanitarian aid) is expected to leave Malaysia on April 27."