



Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil (third from left), Deputy Communications Minister Teo Nie Ching (fourth from left) and ministry secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Fauzi Md Isa (second from left) waving the Jalur Gemilang at the ministry's monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

CONCERN CONVEYED

PM ACCEPTS META'S APOLOGY OVER POSTS

Meta told it should communicate with PMO before removing posts by Anwar, says Fahmi

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has accepted social media giant Meta's apology for "erroneously" removing his posts expressing condolences over the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said he hoped the incident would not recur.

He said the concern was conveyed to Meta's representatives during a meeting on Monday, which was also attended by representatives from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission.

"We hope Meta will communicate with the PMO on such matters before removing posts by the prime minister.

"During yesterday's (Monday's) meeting, I asked Meta to give the prime minister the same treatment that other countries' leaders get," he said after his ministry's monthly assembly yesterday.

Fahmi, who is the unity government spokesman, said the prime minister's social media posts were removed in accordance with Meta's guidelines, but the rules could change from time to time.

These guidelines, considered as living documents, would be changed according to current geopolitical issues.

Fahmi said the word "*syahid*" used to be banned on Facebook, but was now no longer an issue.

He said Meta had an independent body to study complaints on the removal of posts on its platforms.

"The government does not wish to restrict or ban social media platforms, but will consider preparing a code of conduct.

"We hope to have the first version ready by Dec 31, as the implementation of the licensing requirement for social media platforms takes effect from Jan 1."

Earlier, Fahmi said posts with pictures of Anwar speaking to and hugging Haniyeh in May were taken down on July 30, just a day before the latter's assassination.

He said no Meta software engineers were present at the meeting and representatives were unable to provide further explanation on the "technical error" cited for the removal of Anwar's Facebook and Instagram posts on July 31.

"I wish to highlight that the Madani government has been very vocal in defending the Palestinian struggle.

"This could make Malaysia a target for those who are not comfortable with our stance."

He said Malaysia was a sovereign country that would continue to fight for the Palestinian struggle.

Fahmi took Meta to task over Facebook's mistranslation of a post by RTM about the installation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia on July 20.

He also questioned the disrup-

tion of RTM's live broadcast of the Palestine solidarity rally on Sunday. These, he said, were unacceptable, but Meta's representatives only smiled without giving a satisfactory explanation.

"This is the reason we will license the platforms. Not to silence the people, but due to the migration of crimes to cyberspace.

"During a briefing with the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) and CCID (Commercial Crime Investigation Department) on Wednesday, I was told that losses to scammers on Facebook totalled RM432 million last year."

Earlier, Meta apologised for erroneously removing Anwar's social media posts on its platforms.

Meta was sorry for the "operational error" and the content had been restored with "the correct newsworthy label", a Meta spokesman told Reuters.

Haniyeh and his bodyguard were killed at a government guesthouse in Teheran. He was in Iran for the inauguration of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

There have been conflicting reports about how Haniyeh was killed, but they all mention an explosion.

While most reports said he was killed by a bomb, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said he was killed by a short-range projectile fired from outside the house.

Israel has been blamed for the assassination, but Tel Aviv has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.

The killing threatens to escalate the conflict in the Middle East, not just in Palestine. Many countries have condemned the killing, not just Muslim nations.