

PM tells Meta to stop acting as instrument of Israel

> Anwar slams platform for insulting Palestinians by removing videos, criticism on Haniyeh assassination

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reminded Meta Platforms Inc (Meta) to stop acting as an instrument of the oppressive Zionist Israeli regime.

In a post on his Facebook page, he slammed Meta for being rude and insulting to the Palestinian people's struggle after it once again removed videos, messages of condolences and criticism regarding the assassination of Hamas Political Bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh.

Anwar said it is unreasonable to consider social media posts honouring a fighter striving to liberate his homeland from oppression and suffering as dangerous.

"Let this serve as a clear and unequivocal message to Meta: Cease this display of cowardice and stop acting as an instrument of the oppressive Zionist Israeli regime!"

A check on Anwar's Instagram account revealed that three of his posts on Wednesday

condemning the killing of Haniyeh in Iran and the pictures of their meeting that he shared were removed from the social media app.

The removal of the posts was accompanied by the caption "Dangerous individuals and organisations."

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister's Office condemned Meta's action of once again taking down a post from Instagram on Anwar's meeting with Hamas leaders in Doha, Qatar.

The Media and Strategic Communications Division of the Prime Minister's Office stated in a Facebook post that this action clearly shows discrimination against the situation in Palestine and its leaders.

"Therefore, we demand an explanation regarding this matter and urge Meta to apologise," said the statement, which was also shared on the prime minister's official social media accounts.

On May 14, Anwar shared pictures of his

meeting with Hamas leaders, including Haniyeh, on his official social media platform, but Meta soon removed the post.

Meta subsequently restored the post after it was condemned for acting that way.

In a Facebook post on Wednesday, Anwar said the assassination of Haniyeh in an Israeli airstrike in Tehran, Iran, was a murder of the most heinous kind, *Bernama* reported.

"It is patently clear that this could only have been carried out in an environment of utter impunity.

"Only the heedless and unconscionable will not see the need to intensify pressure on Israel to stop their murderous rampage.

"I am deeply concerned about what this tragedy would mean for the Palestinian people, who have already been so cruelly subjected to so much pain, hardship and suffering for so many decades.

"Detractors who have criticised me for meeting with Haniyeh in the past fail to appreciate Haniyeh's profound desire for a peaceful Middle East and a Palestinian nation restored to its rightful dignity.

"I mourn the loss of a dear friend and a valiant advocate for his people. *Al-Fatihah.*"