



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim delivering the keynote address at the 2024 Common Action Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

'BAN VETO POWER IN MASS ATROCITY CASES'

PM says outdated decision-making processes hindering council from fulfilling mandate

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THE veto power held by the five permanent members of United Nations Security Council should be prohibited in cases of mass atrocities, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The prime minister said the

council's outdated structure and decision-making processes were hindering its ability to fulfil its mandate.

He said the veto power had paralysed the council, and the lack of representation from regions such as Africa and Latin America reflected a bygone era.

"Instead of being a vehicle for action, the Security Council has too often become an instrument of deadlock.

"We see the consequences in places like Gaza, in the persecution of the Rohingya and in the war in Ukraine. Until the veto can be abolished, we must establish clear regulations governing its use.

"The veto should be banned in cases of mass atrocities, require broader support from both per-

manent and non-permanent members, and be subject to ratification by the General Assembly through a simple majority.

"This is how we move towards a fairer and more accountable system, one that serves justice and action."

Anwar said this in a keynote address at the 2024 Common Action Forum titled "Sovereignty and Fair Interdependence: The Global South and the Democratization of Prosperity".

"We stand at a critical juncture for global justice. Israel's actions against Palestinians — war crimes, collective punishment and genocide — are a blatant affront to the norms of international law and fundamental human rights," he said.