

Jeju Air crash reminds us of life's fragility, says PM

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PETALING JAYA: The tragedy of the ill-fated Jeju Air Flight 7C2216 serves as a reminder of how fragile life is, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"At a time when so many of us are gathered with family and friends, reflecting on the year and treasuring our loved ones, this devastating loss serves as a stark reminder of how precious and fragile life is.

"Let us take a moment to cherish those around us," said Anwar in a Facebook post yesterday.

Anwar also said he was profoundly saddened by the tragic plane crash at the Muan International Airport in South Korea.

"My thoughts are with the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives in this heartbreaking tragedy," said Anwar.

He said Malaysia stands in solidarity with the people of South Korea and Thailand in the tragedy that claimed all but two lives.

"We extend our deepest condolences to all who have been affected," added Anwar.

The flight from Bangkok, which was carrying 181 people on board, veered off the runway and crashed at the airport yesterday.

South Korea's National Fire Agency said more than 1,500 emergency personnel were deployed to the site and a special disaster zone had been enforced.

Video and images from the scene show the mottled and charred remains of the aircraft.

The two confirmed survivors of the Jeju Air crash in South Korea were rescued from the plane's tail section, the only part of the aircraft that retained some of its shape, Muan fire chief Lee Jung-hyun told a briefing.

The survivors of the crash, a male and a female crew member, are being treated in hospital.

"Only the tail part retains a little bit of shape, and the rest of (the plane) looks almost impossible to recognise," the fire chief said.

The black boxes from the airliner have been recovered, including flight data and voice recorder, according to a briefing from its Land Ministry.