

# PM DISMAYED BY BLEAK GAZA FUTURE

Anwar disturbed by current state in Gaza with no sign of end to Zionist tyranny

HANA NAZ HARUN  
AND HAKIM MAHARI  
**PUTRAJAYA**  
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday expressed disappointment with the current development in Gaza, as there is no sign that the Zionist tyranny over Palestine will end.

Anwar, who just returned from a work trip to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, said he often raised humanitarian issues in Gaza in meetings with world leaders.

The prime minister said during

the World Economic Forum meeting in Riyadh, he discussed the latest developments in Gaza with other leaders, including ministers from Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq and Pakistan.

“The information (I received) is very unconvincing and worrying.

“Since last night, I was very disturbed because it’s like the world is disappointing us.

“They talk about democracy, about humanity, about being highly civilised people, but their dignity and values are still bland, still not respecting others.

“That’s why the future of the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza, is still bleak,” he said in his speech at the national Labour Day celebration here yesterday.

Anwar criticised the Western world for not caring about the plight of the Palestinian people, who continue to be oppressed by the Zionist regime.

He said he had done his best

during his meeting with United States President Joe Biden and world leaders to state Malaysia’s stance on Gaza.

“This is not to heat up and complicate bilateral relations, but to express our stance on hypocrisy.

“Whether the tyranny happens to Muslims or Christians, Hindus or Buddhists, it is still tyranny and it is our duty to protect and help oppressed people.

“Unfortunately, this is not the view of the rich Western countries. They still prefer to close their eyes and turn a deaf ear, pretending not to hear the screams of small children and women. They allow this month after month, day after day, moment after moment.

“I am expressing this because I listened to these issues when I was in Riyadh and my feelings are in disarray and worn out.”

On another issue, Anwar slammed those who accused him of approving a casino licence for Forest City, Johor, saying he had

never heard of any proposal to build a casino in Johor.

“His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia has never mentioned to me any interest in allowing gambling there.

“So where did this (rumour) come from? From villains. They should take over my room at Sungai Buloh (prison).”

He said he was open to criticism, but those who criticised royals should be ready to face the music.

He said the monarchy could not be criticised the same way as politicians.

“If you condemn, what more slander royals, the answer is prosecution, punishment and imprisonment.

“Don’t get angry at me. People say Anwar is undemocratic, that I am tough or have an iron fist, but the country has a constitutional monarchy and this is the way.”

Last week, he denied reports that the government was mulling a casino licence to revive Forest

City. Bloomberg had reported that Malaysia was in early discussions with tycoons on opening a casino in Forest City to revive the RM478 billion project.

Quoting sources, Bloomberg claimed Anwar met Berjaya Corporation founder Tan Sri Vincent Tan and Genting Group’s Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay about the matter.

It was reported that Berjaya Corporation filed police reports on articles alleging its involvement in casino talks in Forest City, citing malicious intent aimed at causing political upheaval.

Genting Malaysia refuted the claims, saying neither the company nor Lim, its deputy chairman and chief executive officer, were involved such discussions.

On Tuesday, Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia information committee member Badrul Hisham Shaharin was charged in the Johor Baru Sessions Court for publishing seditious material on the alleged casino project.