

# PM: COOL HEADS IN MIDEAST NEEDED

Israel's attacks on 3 nations an attempt to divert attention from its atrocities against Palestinians, says Anwar

IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**M**alaysia has urged parties in the Middle East to de-escalate the rising tensions in the region.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday said Israel's continued aggression and attacks on Lebanon, Syria, and

Yemen were to divert attention from its atrocities against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

"This escalation is aimed at keeping Israel's political leaders in power and out of prison, sacrificing lives at the altar of one man's political career.

"We must prevent a dangerous cycle of action and reaction, which threatens to draw even more parties into the conflict,

further deepening instability and broadening the scale of destruction.

"Malaysia urges all concerned parties to take action to reduce hostilities and establish conditions necessary to prevent a broader regional conflict from erupting," he said on his social media accounts.

On Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry, through the embassy in Beirut, took steps to evacuate 15 Malaysians and three foreign spouses from Lebanon due to the deteriorating situation.

The ministry said nine Malaysians had left the country voluntarily, while four others had decided to remain.