



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking during the Prime Minister's Question Time at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, BERNAMA PIC

SOVEREIGNTY

'NO MILITARY PASSAGE WITHOUT APPROVAL'

We will voice out and protest if other countries encroach on our borders, PM tells Dewan Rakyat

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MALAYSIA will continue to voice out and protest if other countries use our waters as a military passage without approval, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Malaysia did not only have border issues with China, but also with Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei.

"This is why we disagree when only China is mentioned when border issues are brought up as we also have issues with other countries.

"But these problems do not affect diplomatic relations, trade

and the close friendship we have with our neighbours," he said during the Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to a question by Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan (Perikatan Nasional-Kota Baru) about Malaysia's approach and strategy as Asean chair to resolve South China Sea disputes.

Anwar said Malaysia would deal with border issues through negotiation and dialogue.

"On the Code of Conduct, I stressed the need for dialogue in the last Asean meeting with the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Asean members.

"This dialogue is tied to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS). UNCLOS binds everyone. China agreed to resolve the matter under the UNCLOS framework."

He said Malaysia would not waver in its position on territories that belonged to the country.

"That is why oil exploration by Petronas, including in the Kasawari gas project area, continues.

"Even though China raised the issue, we said we will continue the exploration. But we have never closed the door on any dis-

cussions with any country.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said Malaysia would continue to assert a firm stance on the South China Sea issue across multiple platforms to ensure the country's sovereignty and interests were protected.

In a parliamentary written reply to a question on the government's position on the South China Sea claims conflict, Mohamad said Malaysia's position on the matter was clear and consistent, and that sovereignty and national interests remain at the core of every government action.

He reiterated Anwar's stand that all disputes and resolutions concerning the South China Sea should be based on international law, including the UNCLOS.

Mohamad said the South China Sea issue was complex and sensitive, requiring careful, meticulous and comprehensive management.

He said as Asean chair next year and as the Asean-China dialogue relations coordinator from August this year to July 2027, Malaysia was committed to constructively resolving South China Sea issues through appropriate forums and diplomatic channels.