

## MARITIME DISPUTE

# Sulawesi Sea talks to be rooted in law, history

**KOTA KINABALU:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has given his assurance that talks on resolving Malaysia's border dispute with Indonesia in the Sulawesi Sea will be based on legal and historical considerations.

He added that the Sabah government and legislature must also agree to any settlement.

He said the recent 13th Malaysia-Indonesia Annual Consultation with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto concerning the Sulawesi Sea was conducted in the presence of Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor and Sarawak Premier Tan

Sri Abang Johari Openg.

"In line with the principles of the Madani government, matters such as border delimitation must involve state leaders.

"I think the chief minister (Hajiji) should hear it directly, to express his views, and to be aware of what was discussed," he said at the closing of the 2025 National Farmers, Breeders and Fishermen's Day here yesterday.

Anwar said he had made it clear that the Sulawesi Sea issue must be discussed based on the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and historical antecedents.

The dispute in the Sulawesi Sea has persisted since Malaysia published a map of its maritime boundaries in 1979 that included an area also claimed by Indonesia.

According to a written reply dated July 22 published on the Parliament website, the Foreign Ministry maintains that the ND6 and ND7 oil exploration blocks in the Sulawesi Sea are in Malaysian sovereign territory.

"This is our country. We will not allow even a single inch of land or sea to be encroached upon or claimed by anyone," said Anwar.