

## NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT

# Malaysia will back talks if Israel ends occupation'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Israel's occupation, genocide and violence in Palestine must stop before Malaysia will support any negotiations on resolving the conflict.

"Our position is clear: end the violence, end the genocide, end the killings, and end the occupation of Gaza and Palestine.

"There can be no negotiations before that," said Anwar after launching the printing of the Russian translation of the Quran, as well as the launch of the Mushaf Al-Ummah Al-Jami', at the Nasyrul Quran Complex here yesterday.

Anwar said it was absurd to negotiate with a party responsible for atrocities.

"You come to my home, seize it, kill my wife and children, and then say, 'Shall we negotiate?' That is simply unacceptable," he said.

He urged the international community, including world leaders such as United States President Donald Trump, to halt the bloodshed.

"Trump once supported our efforts to secure peace between Cambodia and Thailand. We believe that peace can be achieved, provided there is courage, resolve and a commitment to principle," he added.

Anwar described the situation as a stain on global humanity and a failure of moral conscience.

His comments come amid discussion in Malaysia about the recent New York Declaration on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It was developed following a high-level conference co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan told Parliament

on Thursday that Malaysia was uncomfortable with the declaration's preconditions, and reiterated the concern yesterday.

Speaking after the 58th Asean Day celebration in Cyberjaya yesterday, he said Malaysia wanted to see an independent Palestine with no strings attached.

He said although 122 United Nations member states, including Malaysia, supported the resolution, the outcome lacked inclusive discussions.

"Attachments and conditions were introduced after a closed-door roundtable with only seven or eight countries. That's where our concern lies. We want an independent Palestinian state, full stop. No attachments, no preconditions," he said.

"After that, it is up to the Palestinians to decide who governs them."