

CAMBODIA-THAILAND TRUCE

'MALAYSIA'S ROLE RECOGNISED'

Country's stability has earned international trust in its ability to be mediator, says PM

LARUT

MALAYSIA'S role as Asean chair in facilitating reconciliation efforts between Thailand and Cambodia following recent border tensions has been recognised internationally, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said although there were certain quarters that refused to acknowledge Malaysia's role, the trust placed by the countries involved was clear proof they held Malaysia's political and economic

stability in high regard.

"Thank God, in Malaysia our politics are stable and our economic development is respected.

"So, when disputes arise, the task of reconciliation is entrusted to us. This is a form of international recognition, even if some in Parliament may choose not to acknowledge it — and that is fine," he said.

Anwar was speaking when opening the Madani Dairy Entrepreneur Carnival at Farm Fresh Perak Dairy Complex yesterday.

Also present were Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad, Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu and Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek.

Earlier, US ambassador to Malaysia Edgard D. Kagan was reported to have said that Malaysia had played an important role as Asean chair in peace efforts between Thailand and Cambodia through the General Boundary

Committee (GBC) meeting.

Kagan said Malaysia's role in organising the meeting demonstrated its leadership in bringing both nations to the table.

Meanwhile, Anwar Said Malaysia's strong diplomatic relations had brought significant benefits, particularly in creating new economic opportunities in the country.

"For example, during the conflict between Cambodia and Thailand, Thai milk could not enter Cambodia, but Farm Fresh milk successfully entered the market.

"I am sharing this because our relations with Thailand and Cambodia are good. If Farm Fresh wishes to open a farm in Thailand, we will extend our full cooperation," he said.

Anwar also stressed that the government would continue to support initiatives that strengthen the nation's food security, including the dairy industry.

He praised local dairy producer

Farm Fresh Bhd for its contribution to the dairy sector, job creation for Malaysians and commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Meanwhile, Farm Fresh chief operations director Azmi Zainal said its 335-hectare complex in Perak was home to 4,300 dairy cows producing 22,000 litres of milk daily.

"In a year, this complex produces 10 million litres of milk, making it the largest and most productive dairy farm in the country," he said, adding that the farm has 150 local workers, mostly under the age of 30.

Farm Fresh also buys milk from local small farmers at competitive prices.

"Through our CSR initiatives last year, we awarded scholarships to 500 STPM students and starting this year, we will also introduce a mathematics tuition programme for primary school pupils," he added. **Bernama**