

Malaysian diplomacy earns respect

Thai-Cambodia ceasefire seen as success around the world

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's success in uniting Asean and promoting peace in the region has earned it international respect, with the country now seen as a key diplomatic player on the world stage, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia's name is now held in high regard globally, especially due to its efforts in bringing Thailand and Cambodia to the negotiating table, leading to a ceasefire agreement.

"Malaysia's name is honoured around the world. People are now talking about Malaysia's success in uniting Asean and achieving peace and progress for all.

"Almost every day, we are still in contact. Just last night (Friday), I was speaking with several prime ministers, including Prime Minister Hun Manet of Cambodia.

"I asked about the situation, and he said, Thank you very much

Prime Minister, no more fighting,' but he asked for our help," he said in his speech at the National Felda Settlers' Day Celebration and Rural Entrepreneurs' Carnival here yesterday.

He said the Thai and Cambodian defence ministers are expected to arrive in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow to hold detailed discussions on peace efforts between the two countries.

Anwar also revealed that US President Donald Trump commended Malaysia's role in facilitating peace between the two Asean nations.

"One of the first things President Donald Trump mentioned was, 'Prime Minister Anwar, fantastic work'.

"That was because of our success in bringing Thailand and Cambodia together to resolve and achieve a ceasefire and peace - something that is hard to achieve elsewhere."

He added that earlier attempts by others had fallen short.

He expressed gratitude to the



Meeting the people: Anwar and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi greeting attendees of the National Felda Settlers' Day Celebration and Rural Entrepreneurs' Carnival at Mitec in Kuala Lumpur. - RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

institutions working behind the scenes for the ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia.

Anwar added that he was proud as a Malaysian to see the country trusted by international partners.

On a separate matter, Anwar attributed Malaysia's success in securing a reduced 19% tariff rate from the United States to the strength and effectiveness of its leadership.

He said the previous 25% tariff was a serious concern as it would have had significant repercussions for the Malaysian economy.

"We are a hub for semiconductors and electrical and electronics

(E&E) in South-East Asia.

"Our exports to the United States alone make up 60% of total E&E exports. How much is that? Over RM200bil a year in exports to the United States from E&E and semiconductors alone."

He added that Malaysian semiconductor exports would continue to enjoy zero tariffs.

"Semiconductors - once again, praise be to God - are not included in this tariff. Zero. We can export."

He also reiterated Malaysia's firm stand on the rights of Palestinians and its consistent advocacy for justice and human rights on the global stage.

"Malaysia is among the most resolute countries in defending the territorial rights of Palestine and the struggle of its people," he said, adding that Malaysia is only able to do this because of its internal strength.

Meanwhile, Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, announced an allocation of RM100,000 for each village under the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) to implement development projects of their choice.