

CAMBODIA-THAILAND CLASHES

'MALAYSIA UNPERTURBED BY CRITICISM'

Those who doubted country's role in easing border tensions unaware of efforts, says Anwar

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MALAYSIA is unperturbed by criticism of its role in easing tensions between Thai-

land and Cambodia, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar

Ibrahim yesterday.

He said those who doubted the country's actions were unaware of the efforts made to address the issue.

He said the claim that Malaysia was biased in its mediation was just a "small perception".

"I have been studying this issue. They (critics) do not have all the facts or information. I have adopted a cautious approach in my discussions with Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet.

"Our armed forces chief has also contacted both sides, as did our foreign minister."

Anwar said Malaysia's role was to facilitate a ceasefire and bring an end to hostilities between the two countries.

"Any decision made, including at border meetings coordinated by the foreign ministers, is in line with the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord and done with the agreement of both countries."

Anwar said Malaysia also welcomed the move by Cambodia and Thailand to hold direct talks in China.

"China is providing a setting for both sides to focus on practical steps to reduce risk and rebuild confidence. Such facilitation is most valuable when it supports de-escalation and reinforces regional efforts."

On Myanmar, he said Asean leaders would continue to respond to current developments with care.

Meanwhile, Anwar also touched on the recent Gaza discussions in Florida, the United States, which aimed to address

the next phase of the Israel-Hamas peace process.

"Let us be clear: there must be no return to large-scale violence. Any resumption would exact an intolerable cost on civilians and further erode the already fragile prospects for peace.

"Israel must be held accountable for its actions and obligations under international law."

Anwar also said Malaysia was fully aligned with the position taken by a broad group of states and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in rejecting Israel's recognition of the so-called "Somaliland" region.

"We express our categorical opposition to any attempt to use "Somaliland" or any other territory for the forcible transfer or displacement of the Palestinian people from Gaza.

"This would perpetuate injustice rather than contribute to peace. We reject all actions that undermine the international legal order," he added.