

PM RESERVES COMMENT ON TRUMP'S PLAN

Anwar says will review US leader's statement

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim reserved comment on United States President Donald Trump's proposed takeover of Gaza, only saying that Malaysia's stance was consistent with other Islamic nations.

"Gaza is important.

"Malaysia's stance would remain consistent with that of other Islamic nations," he said when asked for comments on the US leader's proposal.

Trump had said the US would take over war-ravaged Gaza and resettle its inhabitants elsewhere while the territory was redeveloped.

"We are reviewing the statement first, then we will comment on it," Anwar said.

Trump unveiled his surprise plan, without providing specifics, at a joint press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington.

"The US will take over the Gaza Strip and we will do a job with it,

too. We'll own it," Trump said.

The announcement followed Trump's shock proposal earlier on Tuesday for the permanent resettlement of Palestinians from Gaza to neighbouring countries, calling the enclave — where the first phase of a fragile Israel-Hamas ceasefire is in effect — a "demolition site".

Earlier, Anwar had officiated at the launch of the *A Malik Bennabi Reader* series of books and the International Institute of Futures Studies at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization here.

Parliamentary Caucus for Palestine chairman Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh said he was appalled at Trump's suggestion.

"Such rhetoric is not only irresponsible but also sets a dangerous precedent in the global order, undermining the principles of sovereignty, human rights and international law.

"I urge all nations to uphold the principles of justice, equality and respect for the sovereignty of all states, including the state of Palestine, and reject

Trump's knee-jerk takeover plan of Gaza," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Syed Ibrahim likened Trump's suggestion to advocating for ethnic cleansing.

"The world must not remain silent in the face of such dangerous rhetoric."

"Gaza is important. Malaysia's stance would remain consistent with that of other Islamic nations.

DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime minister