



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visiting Batu Caves ahead of the Thaipusam celebrations in Gombak yesterday. NSTP PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

MEETING NEXT WEEK

ANWAR, ERDOGAN TO DISCUSS GAZA RECOVERY

Both Leaders are vocal in championing Islamic issues on world stage, says aide

IPOH

THE recovery and reconstruction of Gaza is one of the main issues expected to be discussed between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who will visit Malaysia next week.

The prime minister's senior political secretary, Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin, said this was because both leaders had been vocal in representing the Islamic world on various issues, including the oppression of the

Palestinian people.

"I think this is a very crucial time, especially after United States President (Donald Trump) announced his plan to take over the Gaza Strip, which, in my opinion, is completely unreasonable.

"I believe that the meeting between these two key and prominent leaders, who are also long-time friends, will have a significant impact on the international community's efforts to find a way to successfully rebuild Gaza," he said at a press conference after representing the prime minister in launching the "Rumah Ibu"

Scheme here yesterday.

Trump earlier said on Tuesday "the US will take over the Gaza Strip", shortly after proposing the permanent resettlement of Palestinians outside the enclave, to turn it into "the Riviera of the Middle East".

International media also reported that Trump's controversial proposal had received widespread condemnation, with many calling it "ethnic cleansing" and a "war crime".

Palestinian group Hamas, as well as world leaders, have strongly rejected Trump's statement, describing it as a misunderstanding and showed deep ignorance of the Palestinian struggle and the region as a whole.

Bernama