

MOVE TO SPEED UP SOUTH CHINA SEA CODE OF CONDUCT TALKS

PM: Importance of maritime region's stability, Myanmar crisis discussed with Vietnamese premier

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MALAYSIA has reiterated its commitment to expediting negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) to ensure stability in the region.

"At the regional level, Malaysia emphasises the importance of maintaining stability in the South China Sea, ensuring compliance with international law, and expediting negotiations on the Code of Conduct (COC)," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said in a Facebook post.

Anwar said this was among the many topics discussed with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh during their breakfast meeting yesterday morning.

He added that Malaysia was also pushing for tangible and sustainable progress in implementing the Five-Point Consensus (5PC) to prevent the crisis in Myanmar from worsening.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Minh Chinh, during his working visit to Vietnam yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

"Malaysia believes that strong relationships between countries in the region are key to shared stability and prosperity."

Anwar also highlighted strengthening Malaysia-Vietnam ties through the comprehensive strategic partnership.

"This is not merely an agreement on paper but a commitment to enhancing cooperation across key sectors, including trade, investment, green energy, digital technology and regional

security."

He said Malaysian investors had played a crucial role in Vietnam's economic landscape.

"We aim to see more high-impact projects jointly led in the future," he added.

In July last year, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said Malaysia, as the country coordinator for Asean-China Dialogue Relations, will intensify efforts to finalise the COC.

On Jan 19, Asean foreign ministers meeting in Langkawi affirmed the need to expedite COC negotiations in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) 1982.

Mohamad had said a draft of the COC was at the technical committee level.

Page 1 pic: An aerial view of Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea on Feb 18.