

'TRUCE A TESTAMENT TO ASEAN'S POWER'

NEW STRAITS TIMES 30 JUL 2025

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Patience, trust and steady diplomacy vital to keep region stable, says Anwar

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THE ceasefire Thailand and Cambodia agreed upon to end clashes along their shared border is a testament to Asean's convening power and the constructive engagement of its partners in maintaining regional stability.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, speaking during a policy address at the Asean Secretariat here, said Malaysia's role as Asean chair had placed it at the centre of efforts to de-escalate the crisis.

"I believed that despite the volatile situation, it was both vital and possible to bring the two sides to the table," he said.

Anwar hosted Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and acting Thai Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai in Putrajaya on Monday, with the support of the United States and China.

"This was a remarkable moment for Asean diplomacy. With active participation from our dialogue partners, we were able to secure a ceasefire agreement that reflects Asean's relevance and unity in times of crisis," Anwar said

He said the episode reinforced



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto at Istana Merdeka, Jakarta yesterday.

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Asean's long-held values: dialogue, mutual respect and shared commitment to peace.

Anwar said the presence of the US and Chinese representatives at the meeting highlighted the bloc's ability to bring together major powers and resolve disputes the "Asean way".

"The cooperation of all parties reaffirmed that peace is best achieved through diplomacy. It also reminded us that the traits which have kept our region stable — patience, trust and steady diplomacy — remain as vital today as ever."

Anwar stressed on the need for a resilient and united Asean in an increasingly fragmented world marked by geopolitical rivalry, economic disruption and weakened multilateralism.

"We cannot control global currents or dictate terms to the world, but we can shape our own future with courage, foresight and determination," he said.

Anwar called for a renewed commitment to Asean-led mechanisms, such as the East Asia Summit, Asean Plus Three and

the Asean Regional Forum, and reiterated the importance of the bloc's Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

"Asean must use its influence to foster dialogue and create genuine opportunities for cooperation. In this climate of polarisation, our unity and centrality matter more than ever."

Anwar also called on member states to narrow development gaps and strengthen intra-regional linkages.

"Our region is home to a dynamic market of 660 million people. The potential is immense, but we must ensure growth is equitable and inclusive," he said.

Anwar said the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world's largest trade pact, was central to this vision. He confirmed that the 5th RCEP Leaders' Meeting will be held on the sidelines of the 47th Asean Summit in October.

Earlier, Anwar attended the long-overdue 13th Malaysia-Indonesia Annual Consultation with President Prabowo Subianto at Istana Merdeka here.