

PM slams Israeli strikes on Iran as 'punitive, unprovoked'

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has condemned the recent Israeli airstrikes on Iranian territory, describing them as "punitive" and "unprovoked" acts that violate international law and undermine diplomatic efforts.

He said the attacks were clearly intended to derail ongoing negotiations and shatter hopes for a peaceful resolution in the region.

"Such actions, carried out with utter impunity, constitute a blatant violation of international law, further eroding the norms that hold the global order together. We call on those with power and influence to speak plainly and act decisively to restrain further escalation," he said at the 38th Asia-Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia chairman Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah, Bernama reported.

On the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Anwar expressed deep concern over Israel's ongoing military campaign, calling it a tragedy that continues to inflict a devastating toll on a defenceless population.

"The staggering civilian casualties, overwhelmingly women and children, demand far more than pious proclamations of concern. They require concerted international action to uphold humanitarian law, secure an immediate ceasefire and ensure the unfettered delivery of aid to those in desperate need."

Anwar warned that the credibility of the so-called rules-based



Anwar giving his keynote address at the event yesterday.

international order is "on trial", urging global powers to act decisively to prevent further escalation.

Shifting focus to regional tensions, he said similar pressures are playing out across the Asia Pacific.

"In the Taiwan Strait, Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea, familiar flashpoints flicker. Here, as ever, we must insist on the primacy of

dialogue over disruption, of law over disorder, of restraint over escalation."

He stressed that Malaysia believes the region's future does not lie in hardened blocs or fragile balances, but in a security architecture that is inclusive, rules-based and predictable – one in which active non-alignment is not merely accepted but enabled to thrive.

"While we do not pretend to reshape the region to fit our ideals, we can act to prevent its worst outcomes. Stability is not guaranteed, but neither is chaos inevitable. What we do now – how we manage tensions, balance relationships and defend our interests – will determine how the region weathers the storms ahead."