

# Quiet diplomacy breaks through in Myanmar crisis: PM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has stressed that quiet engagement has played an effective role in addressing the ongoing crisis in Myanmar.

"The steps may be small and the bridge may be fragile, but as they say, in matters of peace, even a fragile bridge is better than a widening gulf," he said in his opening remarks at the 46th Asean Summit here yesterday.

Anwar said Asean has been able to take positive steps with the formation of the Informal Advisory Group for Malaysia as the Asean Chair.

"It is significant that since the third meeting held in Bangkok, we have been able to move the needle forward in our efforts for the eventual resolution of the Myanmar crisis.

"We are grateful that the next meeting will be hosted by Cambodia former Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen."

Earlier this month, Anwar initiated separate dialogues with Myanmar's junta leader Min Aung Hlaing and the opposition National Unity Government, marking a significant step towards fostering direct engagement between the conflicting parties.

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said the Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting had agreed that Asean would undertake internal consultations on the proposal to appoint a permanent Asean Special Envoy to Myanmar for a three-year

term - a move aimed at ensuring continuity and sustained engagement in addressing the protracted crisis.

The move has been seen as a potential breakthrough in Asean's mediation efforts,

The five-point consensus was adopted by Asean in April 2021 following the military coup in Myanmar on Feb 1 that year.

It calls for an immediate cessation of violence, inclusive dialogue among all parties, the appointment of a special envoy, the delivery of humanitarian assistance and for the envoy to be granted access to all stakeholders in Myanmar.

Despite its significance, implementation of the consensus has largely stalled due to the junta's continued non-compliance, with the issue remaining a central concern in Asean's ongoing engagement with Myanmar, Bernama reported.

Meanwhile, for Asean, Anwar said peace, stability and prosperity have often depended on an open, inclusive, rules-based international order, anchored in the free flow of trade, capital and people.

He said the foundations are now being dismantled under the force of arbitrary action.

"But again, I strongly believe in the fortitude and staying power of Asean to withstand the headwinds and weather the storms of the challenges and uncertainties facing us."