

# PM: MALAYSIA SET NO TERMS ON PEACE PACT

We acted as neutral mediator to help Thailand, Cambodia reach resolution, says Anwar

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**M**ALAYSIA'S role in the peace negotiations between Thailand and Cambodia is

limited to coordination and facilitation, without imposing any conditions, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Malaysia had never dictated the terms, but merely acted as a neutral mediator to help both sides reach a constructive and lasting resolution.

"We only coordinated. I still remember when I brought both prime ministers together, I told them, 'you decide the terms, I'm only here to help coordinate and promote peace,'" he said during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. He said the parameters and outcomes of the peace process were determined entirely by Thailand and Cambodia.

"They set the parameters, not us. We didn't impose any conditions for peace. Both countries reached their own agreement," he said in response to a question by Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim (PN-Arau) on how Malaysia handled criticism over its role in the peace negotiations.

Anwar's remarks came amid renewed tension following a landmine explosion near the Thai-Cambodian border that injured four Thai soldiers and prompted Bangkok to suspend implementation of the peace deal signed here last month.

The agreement, witnessed by Anwar and United States President Donald Trump, aimed to end months of hostilities that had killed at least 43 people and displaced more than 300,000 civilians on both sides.

Anwar said Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul had urged Cambodia to fully comply with the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord before Thailand releases 18 detained Cambodian soldiers.

"The landmine explosion caused



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, bernama pic

injuries and angered the Thai people, raising questions about whether the agreement had been violated.

"But Prime Minister Anutin did not dispute Malaysia's role. In fact, he urged Cambodia to fully comply with the accord, after which the 18 detainees would be released in line with the peace terms."

He said Anutin only suggested deferring the agreement pending clarification, rather than rejecting Malaysia's mediation role.

"He is not attacking us. There is a difference between disagreeing and attacking."

He said criticism of Malaysia's role in facilitating the peace talks should be seen within the context of democratic discourse, as differing opinions were natural.

"In Malaysia, some may disagree even after an agreement is signed. The same happens in Thailand. Malaysia's success sometimes breeds envy. Some people are uncomfortable seeing a small country like ours gaining international recognition."

Anwar reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to promoting regional stability, adding that tensions in neighbouring countries could also impact Malaysia, especially as it holds the Asean chairmanship until the end of this year.

"I pray for peace. Wishing for conflict just to prove that Malaysia's prime minister has failed is a harmful attitude. If they fight, it affects us, too. As Asean chair, I remain in constant contact with both sides."

Anwar also addressed remarks by a former Thai general, Major-General (Rtd) Rangsi Kitiyansap,

who called him a "traitor" and an "American spy" over Malaysia's role in brokering the peace deal.

"Rangsi is entitled to his opinion, but there is no reason to make him a hero."

"In Malaysia, we also have people who disagree with agreements. It's the same everywhere."

"But who am I negotiating with? The Thai prime minister and government, not retired generals who have never won an election."

He said Malaysia's achievements on the global stage might have unsettled some quarters.

"We know some people are uncomfortable seeing a small nation like Malaysia receiving international attention. But I have no issue with disagreement. The focus should be on peace, not personal attacks."

Despite the recent landmine incident, Armed Forces chief General Tan Sri Mohd Nizam Jaffar said Malaysia remained committed to ensuring the peace process continues.

"We want to make sure this process continues without disruption, as delays could risk reverting to previous situations," he said, adding that both sides were cooling off to assess the situation.

He said the Thai Asean Observation Team would meet the Thai National Security Council and a positive outcome was hoped for.

"Although this is a bilateral issue between Thailand and Cambodia, Asean member states have a shared responsibility to support one another. We extend our condolences to the Thai authorities over the incident." **Additional reporting by Fuad Nizam**