

'NOT A TRIP TO PARIS'

PM defends Gaza flotilla volunteers

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has slammed critics of the 23 Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) volunteers, reminding them that the mission to Gaza was not a holiday in Paris but a dangerous humanitarian effort.

Speaking at the "Himpunan Solidariti Bersama Gaza: Gelombang Malaysia, Palestin Merdeka" event on Wednesday night, Anwar said the volunteers were making history by braving the seas to deliver aid to Palestine.

"You said, 'They have bad intentions', 'They just want to be popular', 'They want to make their pondok (religious school) famous'.

"What kind of people are you? When others go, you should pray for them; instead, you curse them.

"Those who are willing to fight, we salute and pray for them — that's the least we can do," he said, adding that he had also called on Arab leaders to support the GSF mission.

Anwar said he personally salut-

ed the volunteers for choosing to go to Gaza, which was under Israeli control.

"This isn't a trip to Paris — this is going to Gaza, under Israeli control.

"They are making history."


Anwar also addressed criticism over his invitation to United States President Donald Trump to attend the upcoming Asean Summit, saying some had insulted him and described him as "the most useless prime minister".

"It's not just about trade, it's about wisdom. Politics must come with maturity.

"Read Islamic history, even those who rejected Prophet Muhammad still engaged in negotiations."

He pledged to explore alternative ways for the second wave of the Sumud Nusantara mission to assist the people of Palestine, including strategies to reach Egypt and break through the Rafah barrier.

Anwar, who is also patron of Sumud Nusantara, said he would meet with Malaysian Consulta-

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tive Council for Islamic Organisations chief executive officer Datuk Dr Sani Araby Abdul Alim and Cinta Gaza Malaysia chief executive officer Muhammad Nadir Al-Nuri next week to discuss the plan.

He stressed that strategy and wisdom were crucial, particularly since previous attempts to deliver aid via the sea route faced challenges.