

TIMOR-LESTE TO JOIN ASEAN ON OCT 26

KL worked hard to ensure Dili accepted as permanent member, says PM

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TIMOR-LESTE will be made a full member of Asean on Oct 26, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday.

"We supported (Timor Leste) from the beginning, but recently, we have been working hard to ensure that Timor-Leste is accepted as a permanent member of Asean," Bernama reported him as saying.

"*Allahamdulillah*, with the co-operation of the Foreign Ministry, on Oct 26, Timor-Leste will become a permanent member."

He said this at an event with Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) students here.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and UTP president Mohamed Firouz Asnan.

At a separate event in **Ipoh** yesterday, Anwar said Malaysia has earned regional trust as a mediator in conflicts, guided by the principle of humanity over reli-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at an event with Universiti Teknologi Petronas students in Seri Iskandar, Perak, yesterday, BERNAMA PIC

gion or ethnicity.

"There was a conflict along the Thai-Cambodian border. *Alhamdulillah*, Malaysia may not possess great military strength or vast wealth, but it is trusted to mediate and help restore peace.

"But why do we get involved? Because this is about humanity and the spirit of neighbourliness — not ethnicity or religion.

"As a Muslim, I see it as my duty to promote peace, even when the other party is not Muslim. That spirit should guide us."

The Tambun member of parliament said this when addressing students at the Seminar Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia Cemerlang

Saya Pelajar Madani Cemerlang at SMJK Yuk Choy here.

Anwar also referred to the recent Sumud Nusantara flotilla in the Mediterranean as a symbolic act of solidarity.

"For decades, the people of Gaza and Palestine have suffered. Witnessing this compels us to act. We have tried every possible means, yet the situation remains unresolved.

"So these young volunteers decided to go — to show their support and express their convictions. Among them were many Christians from Europe alongside Muslims, united by a sense of humanity and compassion."