

## **'NOT A GOVT INITIATIVE'**

# **'Gaza flotilla missions led by Malaysia's youths'**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said that Malaysia's participation in the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF), Freedom Flotilla Coalition and Thousand Madleens to Gaza missions were not his initiatives.

He instead credited young Malaysians for leading the humanitarian movement.

"There was a group of young people who wanted to lead the effort and I said okay. We gave our support and help."

He said this at the International Future Young Leaders Summit at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur here yesterday.

Present were Higher Education

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambray Abd Kadir, Deputy Minister Datuk Mustapha Sakmud and ministry director-general Professor Datuk Dr Azlinda Azman.

Anwar said the organisers of the missions later sought the government's endorsement.

"They then asked me to express full support and provide official recognition for the effort and I said 'yes' to them.

"Coincidentally, I became the first leader in the world to express official support for the movements."

He acknowledged the contributions of international leaders in advancing peace efforts.

He expressed appreciation for the roles played by United States President Donald Trump, Qatari President Sheikh Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in supporting the ceasefire in Gaza.

Anwar added that future humanitarian efforts need not follow the same risky route.

"I also told our friends in GSF that this time they do not need to go by sea, but instead go by land.

"I hope to contact Abdel Fattah in the coming days to propose to him that he allow our team to deliver aid through the Rafah crossing," he added.