

PM: NO INVITE DUE TO FIRM PALESTINE STAND

Anwar says only countries that fully supported Trump's Gaza peace plan invited to Egypt

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MALAYSIA was not invited to the International Peace Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, due to its conditional support for the United States' 20-point peace plan for Gaza.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said only countries that unconditionally support the plan, spearheaded by US President Donald Trump, were invited.

"Malaysia was not included because our support comes with reservations."

Among the conditions Malaysia championed was recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state, resolution of all related issues, including those in the West Bank, and ensuring the right of return for Palestinians displaced from Gaza and other parts of Palestine.

"In supporting President Trump's initiative, our position aligns with that of several Islamic nations, including Qatar and Jordan."

"Firstly, we believe this peace effort must be given a chance because the killing of innocent civilians, including women and children, must stop immediately."

"Secondly, the situation in Gaza is dire. People are on the



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, BERNAMAPIC

brink of starvation. Based on these considerations, we stated that any initiative, including the one, by Trump, deserves support," he said during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar was responding to a supplementary question by Arau member of parliament Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim about Malaysia's absence from the summit.

Anwar said on a personal note, he was not confident Israel would comply with the plan, adding that new measures must be taken to ensure peace and security in Gaza.

He said this was why Malaysia did not express full support for the plan, as Israel had a track record of violating accords, including the Camp David and Oslo agreements.

He said he received a letter from Hamas on Oct 7 and the contents were consistent with Malaysia's stand on the need for a comprehensive resolution to the genocide.

"Hamas, during their representation at Sharm El-Sheikh, stated that while they support Trump's initiative, they remain committed to upholding negotiations aimed at achieving peace."

"However, consistent with the stance expressed by myself and the foreign minister, they said there must be a comprehensive resolution."

He said this resolution should be in the next phase of discussions, which is to stop any attacks and to comply with international laws and conventions.

He said Malaysia was ready to send peacekeepers and this would be discussed by the Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, subject to the United Nations Security Council's agreement.

Malaysia, he said, was seeking Egypt's approval to send medical experts to Gaza via the Rafah crossing, which he will raise with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said Malaysia's support for Palestine went beyond a ceasefire.

Malaysia's stand, he said, had remained consistent throughout different administrations.

"Our support hinges on Palestine being a free country, allowing displaced Palestinians to return to their homeland, for the new border to follow the one prior to 1967 and for East Jerusalem to be the capital of a free Palestine."

"That is why we conditionally supported the New York Declaration (on a two-state solution) and the 20-point declaration," he said after a Concorde Club event yesterday. **Additional reporting by Zaf Seraj**