

GAZA ON AGENDA

PM chides critics of Trump invite to Asean Summit

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has rebuked critics of the invitation extended to United States President Donald Trump for the 47th Asean Summit here next month.

Anwar said Malaysia would use the summit to air concerns about Palestine and the atrocities in Gaza.

“Malaysia has been outspoken in defending Palestine and Gaza, but at the same time, we use diplomatic channels.

“We are free to speak up because we are an independent and dignified nation. But we must also be wise in making friends.”

He said this at the Wira Madani Roadshow and the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency at the MMEA Maritime Zone Complex in Sandakan yesterday.

Present were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and MMEA director-general Admiral Datuk Mohd Rosli Abdullah.

Anwar said rejecting relations with the US disregarded the economic interests of the country, particularly in the high-technology export sector.

“Malaysia’s semiconductor exports to the US alone amount to billions of ringgit. Tens of thousands of Malaysians are employed in the sector. If we reject ties outright, it is the people who suffer,” he said.

Anwar said Malaysia’s sound governance, foreign policy and clear, open yet firm diplomatic approach had earned it respect internationally.

“A few months ago, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited, and next month, Trump, will come. Few small nations receive such recognition.

“This proves the world respects Malaysia.

“When there was conflict at the Thai-Cambodian border, Malaysia was asked to mediate.

“Similarly, with Timor-Leste, which was once part of Indonesia but is now independent and, *in-syaAllah*, will become Asean’s 11th member this October.”

Anwar said the 47th Asean Summit would gather leaders from the US, China, India, Australia, Canada, Brazil, South Africa, Japan, South Korea, as well as Asean member states.

Bernama