

Govt remains firm on Gaza stance: PM

DOHA: Malaysia will use its meeting with US President Donald Trump at the Asean Summit this October to reiterate the country's firm stance on Gaza and Israel's attacks on Qatar.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said as Asean chair, Malaysia is committed to bringing the voice of solidarity with Palestine to the regional stage and to draw the attention of major world leaders.

"In the meeting with President Trump, we will use the occasion to urge him to understand Malaysia's clear and firm stance in the pursuit of justice, including for Gaza and Palestine," he told a press conference on Monday.

Anwar attended the Extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit here at the

invitation of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in an immediate response to Israeli aggression against Doha on Sept 9.

He said Malaysia's participation reflected the unity of Islamic and Arab nations in strongly condemning Israel's actions and showing full solidarity with Qatar, reported Bernama.

Delivering Malaysia's national statement at the summit, Anwar demanded severe punitive actions against Israel, denouncing in the strongest terms the latest airstrikes on Doha and the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

He stressed that condemnations will not stop missiles and declarations will not free Palestine.

"First, sever all diplomatic relations,

as has already begun among several Arab nations. Second, end all trade dealings with Israel. Third, employ every diplomatic wisdom at our disposal, particularly with countries close to the US, so that decisions are made in line with international law, the United Nations and the demands of universal humanity."

Anwar called the bombing of a sovereign capital "lawless, barbaric and indefensible" saying it violated international law and endangered regional security.

"The gravity of this outrage is deepened by Qatar's vital role as a mediator. Guided by the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, this nation has fostered dialogue. To strike Qatar is to sabotage

those efforts for peace. This attack must be regarded as an attack against us all."

Anwar warned that Israel's aggression was calculated, pointing to Gaza's families wiped out, hospitals reduced to rubble and children buried under debris.

"In the West Bank, the colonial politics of dispossession continue unabated. This barbarity has expanded to Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq and even Iran. This pattern of lawlessness shows utter contempt for civilisation and international order."

Anwar also noted Israel's declaration that there would never be a Palestinian state, describing it as permanent apartheid and a repudiation of UN resolutions and the right to self-determination.

He said nations with close ties to the US bore particular responsibility. "When America sought dialogue with Iran, Israel answered with bombs. When Washington encouraged mediation with Hamas, Israel struck here in Doha."

Anwar emphasised that the crisis extended beyond Gaza and Palestine, pointing to Israel's actions against Qatar, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Lebanon.

"This shows that in today's world, there has never been such unprecedented greed and arrogance."

Anwar's delegation included Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Dr Zulkifli Hasan and senior officials from the Foreign Ministry.