

**Opposition should make clear its stand on Israel**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: The opposition, especially Pas and its top leaders, should make a firm stand on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's support for "all efforts to protect the security of the state of Israel".

Umno Youth vice-chief Datuk Razali Ibrahim said prolonging the matter would only lead to a misunderstanding, particularly among the world community, adding that it could affect Malaysia's image.

"It's very straightforward. You either support Palestine or Israel.

"For Barisan Nasional, it is very clear. There is no in between. We support the Palestinians' struggle," he told the New Straits Times yesterday.

Until a stand is declared, Razali said any vote for the opposition was support for the persecution going on in Palestine.

He urged the people to vote wisely as to whom they wanted as their leader.

Anwar, he said, had shown his true colours and was willing to do anything and "at all costs" to get what he wanted.

The opposition leader, in an interview with The Wall Street Journal, recently said he supported efforts to protect the security of Israel.

The report also said Anwar "stopped short of saying he would open diplomatic ties with the Jewish state, a step which he said remains contingent on Israel respecting the aspirations of Palestinians".

Razali said he would not be surprised if Anwar suddenly turned around and said he had been misquoted on the issue.

"Probably he will sue or demand an apology."

In Jeli, Kelantan, Bernama reports that International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed described the statement by Anwar as most regretful and shameful.

Mustapa said as a Muslim nation, Malaysia was most sympathetic to the people of Palestine who were suffering from the cruelties of the Zionist regime and Malaysia's foreign policy was clear, that was to oppose cruelty and oppression.

"So, we hope that Malaysians will make an assessment of the politics of this leader (Anwar) who is willing to do anything merely to gain support from certain parties," he said after opening a seminar to strengthen the leadership of the Rukun Tetangga committee members in the Jeli parliamentary constituency, yesterday day.

"We acknowledge that the Palestinians are struggling for a true and correct cause, we know that they are being oppressed by the cruelties of the Israeli regime," said Mustapa, who is also the member of parliament for Jeli.

He said the country's foreign policy had been proven to have brought much benefit, but this policy would change if the opposition were to rule the country.

Asked on reports yesterday that the Malays formed the biggest group of people who had not registered as voters despite being eligible to do so, Mustapa said Malaysians who had attained the age of 21 must immediately register as voters because a democratic nation needed all its citizens who were eligible to vote.

On the one-day visit by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to the state today, Mustapa, who is also the chairman of the Kelantan Umno liaison body, said the visit would inspire the state BN machinery to work hard in facing the 13th general election.

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