

**Statement Supporting Israel Is Most Shameful - Mustapa  
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JELI, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- The statement by opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim supporting efforts to protect Israel's security is most regretful and shameful, said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

He said that as a Muslim nation, Malaysia was most sympathetic with the people of Palestine who were suffering from the cruelties of the Zionist regime and Malaysia's foreign policy was clear, that is 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 told reporters after opening a seminar to strengthen the leadership of the Rukun Tetangga Committee Members of the Jeli Parliamentary constituency, here.

Anwar was reported to have stated his support on efforts to look after and protect the security of Israel when he was interviewed by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) recently.

"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 benefits to the country, but this policy would change if the opposition were to rule the country.

Asked on press reports 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 Thursday, Mustapa, who is also the chairman of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Body, said the visit would inspire the state Barisan Nasional (BN) machinery to work hard in facing the 13th general election.

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