

**PAS pledges no trade with Israel under Pakatan rule**  
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**By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal**

SHAH ALAM, Feb 24 — Malaysia will not have any trade relations with Israel if Pakatan Rakyat (PR) assumes federal power, PAS leaders said today.

PAS MPs Khalid Samad and Che Rosli Che Mat pledged that the Islamist party would take necessary steps to ensure that not even Israeli vessels would be allowed to dock at Malaysian ports.

“As far as PAS is concerned, this is our stand. We cannot accept Israeli ships entering our ports,” said Khalid (picture).

Che Rosli, who is Hulu Langat MP, accused Umno-Barisan Nasional (BN) of being hypocrites when the federal government assured Malaysians that Israel ships would never step foot on Malaysian soil.

Both were responding to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad remarks saying that Israeli vessels are allowed to dock at Malaysian ports in accordance with “international laws”. The former prime minister has insisted that this did not mean the government supports the Jewish state.

Malaysia’s alleged trade relations with Israel were raised recently by PKR leaders in an apparent attempt by the party to prove the BN-led government sympathised with Israel’s Zionist regime.

According to PKR-linked pressure group Jingga 13, Israeli-owned ships have been docking at Malaysian ports. The group said this confirmed the existence of trade ties between the two countries.

The claim also appears to be part of the party’s efforts to stave off similar accusations made against its de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who has often been labelled a Jewish sympathiser by his political foes in Umno.

The opposition leader invited further suspicion over his alleged ties with Israel when he expressed support during a recent interview with the influential Wall Street Journal (WSJ) for “all efforts to protect the security of the state of Israel”.

Anwar has since explained that this support remains contingent on Israel respecting the aspirations of Palestinians but has continued to draw flak for his remarks, including from his political partners in Islamist party PAS.

The leader even held a meeting with PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat to explain his statement.

“At least Anwar when he commented, he did not acknowledge Israel, his point was that the security of Palestinians needed to be guaranteed,” said Khalid.

When asked whether PAS could agree with Anwar's support for a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine, Khalid said the matter was purely "academic" at the moment.

"As long as Israel does not recognise Palestine, there will be no problem. The two-state solution only becomes a problem once Israel recognises Palestine," said the Shah Alam MP.

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