

## Myanmar holds solution to resolving crisis, says PM Ismail Sabri

By Adib Povera - February 26, 2022



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said although Malaysia alongside other countries in the Southeast Asia had adopted the Five-Point Consensus, there would be no peaceful solution to the crisis unless Myanmar was committed to do its part. - Bernama pic

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia believes the key to resolve the crisis enveloping Myanmar lies ultimately in the hands of the republic itself.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said although Malaysia alongside other countries in the Southeast Asia had adopted the Five-Point Consensus, there would be no peaceful solution to the crisis unless Myanmar was committed to do its part.

He said the matter was raised during a meeting with his Thai counterpart Payuth Chan o-cha at the Government House in Bangkok yesterday.

"The solution to issues in Myanmar is not in the hands of other Asean countries but it is in the hands of Myanmar people themselves.

"If Myanmar does not aspire for peace, then there is nothing concrete that Southeast Asian countries can do to resolve the problem.

"As foreign countries, members in Southeast Asian countries have a policy of not completely interfere with the domestic affairs of other countries.

"Therefore, it is imperative for Myanmar to resolve the issues that is taking place in their country," said Ismail Sabri during a press conference with the Malaysian media today.

Malaysia, nevertheless, called for Myanmar to end all forms of oppressions against the Rohingyas which affected other countries in the region including Malaysia.

"Malaysia is among the countries which are directly affected by the crisis in Myanmar. To date, we are housing 200,000 Rohingyas in our country. Hence the violence against the Rohingyas must be stopped," he said.

The Five-Point Consensus was adopted on April 24 last year, at a meeting at the Asean Secretariat in Jakarta between Asean leaders and Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The five points included calls for immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar, all parties shall exercise utmost restraint and constructive dialogue to seek a peaceful solution.

During his meeting with Prayut, Ismail Sabri said Thailand had also agreed for Malaysia to lead in the Southern Thailand peace dialogue.

The dialogue provided a ray of hope in ending the bloodshed in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla, in which, Muslims make up the majority.

Earlier this year, the face-to-face dialogue came to a halt after Thailand and Malaysia closed their borders in order to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

Since then, both sides conducted three virtual meetings throughout the pandemic period.

It was reported that a physical dialogue was resumed earlier this year here.