

## **Msia to help Philippines have stable Bangsamoro administration in Mindanao**

By Azman Abdul Hamid - March 2, 2023 @ 7:53pm

MANILA: Malaysia has assured the Philippines of continued help to pave the way to a stable Bangsamoro administration in Mindanao, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"The Philippines President appreciates Malaysia's service all this time and asks us to help so that it can be streamlined and speed up the reconciliation process," he said.

Anwar subsequently met the chief minister in the Bangsamoro transitional government, Haji Murad Ebrahim and his team on Malaysia's assistance to them.

"The meeting is to discuss and give assurances about any cooperation so that reconciliation, especially among Muslims in the south of the Philippines, can be well established and sure of success.

"This has lasted for decades and is not easily solved so I thank the president of the Philippine government for taking this step. But, it is our responsibility as a neighbouring country, a Muslim country as well, to ensure that there is meaningful success and lasting peace in southern Philippines," he added.

The future of thousands of former fighters of the movement under the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) needs a solution.

Anwar said among the initiatives planned is to transfer the former fighters so they can be involved in normal employment, which in the long run will contribute to long lasting peace.

"This is a normal practice in any move towards peace in any conflict in the world," he added.

A recent report by a portal quoted Haji Murad as saying that his group has no problem fast-tracking the process of laying down arms.

However, he said this effort should coincide with the eradication of private armies of the local politicians.

"One problem we see that increases tension in the region is the private armed groups of the politicians," he said.