

M'sia to continue supporting Palestinian cause, says PM

> 'Economic considerations no deterrent in voicing out nation's stance on global issues, including oppression, tyranny in Gaza'

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said economic considerations, although very important, will not constrain Malaysia from demanding justice for the Palestinian people.

He said Malaysia, as an independent and sovereign country, would continue to voice its stance on international issues, including the oppression and tyranny in Gaza.

Citing Malaysia's relationship with the United States (US), Anwar

said it is still good diplomatically, and both countries continue to have comprehensive partnerships and cooperation, including meetings of leaders.

"From January to October, the total bilateral trade between Malaysia and the US increased by 29.1% to RM264.28 billion, a relatively high increase from RM204.78 billion for the same period in 2023," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to a question from RSN Rayer (PH-

Jelutong) on whether Malaysia faces any risk of trade sanctions by the US due to Anwar's outspokenness in defending the rights of the Palestinian people.

Anwar said Malaysia would continue to monitor the latest developments in US policy.

"We are also concerned about the latest developments including the tariff hikes for Mexico, Canada and China. So far, we have been monitoring, it does not involve foreign policy issues, including the Gaza or Palestine issue.

"It involves the balance of payments issue between the two countries where there is a deficit."

Previously, US President-elect Donald Trump announced that he would impose high import tariffs on all goods from Mexico and Canada as well as additional tariffs

on goods from China as soon as he returns to the White House.

Responding to a question from Ahmad Tarmizi Sulaiman (PN-Sik) on whether Malaysia would consider taking stronger action by following South Africa in filing a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the 1948 Genocide Convention, Anwar said Malaysia is sending a representative as a sign of support for the case.

He added that Malaysia does not have the same position and voice as South Africa to bring cases to the ICJ because the country has not signed the Rome Statute.

He said several provisions in the statute cannot be accepted by Malaysia such as those which touch on the Bumiputera policy, religious and LGBT issues