

PM: Tariff calculation 'fundamentally flawed'

KUALA LUMPUR: The United States' basis for calculating the 24 per cent tariff on Malaysian imports is "fundamentally flawed", Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday.

Anwar also refuted the US' claim that Malaysia imposed a 47 per cent tariff on American imports.

"The basis for calculating this tariff is fundamentally flawed, which has inaccurately resulted in Malaysia being imposed a reciprocal tariff of 24 per cent," he said in a televised broadcast.

"Yet, our response will be calm, firm and guided by Malaysia's strategic interests. Malaysia will not introduce retaliatory tariffs."

Last week, the US imposed a 24 per cent tariff on imports from Malaysia, which is among a slew of countries hit by reciprocal levies by US President Donald Trump's administration.

Elaborating on the tariffs, Anwar said the government viewed them as a rejection of the principles of free, non-discriminatory, predictable and open trade under the World Trade Organisation.

"This very organisation was established by, among others, US in 1948 through the Gen-

eral Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"As an open trading nation, Malaysia deems the unilateral decision on reciprocal tariffs as a threat to the global trade and investment system."

Previously, the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry said it was "actively engaging" with US authorities to seek solutions that would uphold the spirit of free and fair trade.

It said the National Geo-economic Command Centre would evaluate the impact of the tariffs and a multi-pronged strategy to mitigate the effects on the economy and industries.

The Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry also said it would look to expand export markets by prioritising high-growth regions and leveraging free trade agreements.

These agreements, it said, included the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

It added Malaysia would foster new partnerships in Asean and accelerate the implementation of key reform policies, including the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 and the National Energy Transition Roadmap.