

# Anwar: Presenting a united Asean force against US tariffs

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**BUTTERWORTH:** Malaysia will use its strength and good relations with other countries, including neighbouring Asean nations, to deal with the recent tariff announcements, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Malaysia must find ways to bounce back, using its own strength, to overcome the situation arising from the 24% tariffs imposed on Malaysian imports by the United States.

Anwar said that he had engaged with leaders from across Asean, who shared a common vision of moving forward collectively.

"We are not moving just as Malaysia, but as a united Asean force.

"All 10 member nations must move as one and not just Malaysia to face the situation," he said in his speech during the state level Aidilfitri Madani 2025 celebration at the PICCA convention centre, here yesterday.

Anwar said that Malaysia must first set a good example.

"Our country must be peaceful, our economy stable and policies clear.

"We must fix weaknesses and stop bad practices, corruption and slow approvals. We must be a good example through hard work and clear policies.

"Corruption, laziness and inef-

iciency must stop. We must adopt a courageous mindset to face challenges. This is the condition," said Anwar, who added that such reforms may face resistance.

"There are always those at home and abroad, that dislike success, but we are not pursuing success for pride. We are doing it to create jobs, strengthen the economy, upgrade our schools, hospitals, rural clinics and infrastructure."

Anwar said that Malaysia's progress must include embracing technology, including artificial intelligence.

He revealed that Penang has raised concerns over the tariffs as the semiconductor export industry exceeded RM200bil with 60%



of it going to the United States.

"I have advised Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow that in every test or crisis, we might feel frustrated, but we must find ways to bounce back using Malaysia's strengths.

"In every test, every crisis, we have choices, to complain and surrender, -or to channel our energy into new solutions," he said adding that Malaysians must

have the courage in facing challenges and overcoming it.

"I believe we can bring about the changes and successes that we want," he said.

Penang had said it will set up a tariff monitoring task force and develop a toolkit to help affected sectors deal with the tariffs announced on April 2, when US President Donald Trump said his government would introduce a baseline tariff of 10% on all countries, and higher duties on some countries, including Malaysia, which was levied with a 24% tax.

On Wednesday, Trump announced a 90-day pause on the tariffs, but retained a 10% levy on almost all global exports to the United States.