

# M'sia must boost readiness amid economic uncertainty

> **Anwar urges vigilance as US market nosedives while tariffs pose risks to trade and livelihoods**

**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia needs to enhance its preparedness in the face of global economic uncertainties, including the US market crash which has led to trillions in losses, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He noted that while the country's economic fundamentals remain solid with encouraging figures, unexpected developments - particularly tariff issues and trade ties with the US - demand urgent attention.

"Our export value to the US is significant. Semiconductor exports alone may reach US\$100 billion, accounting for 65% of the country's total semiconductor production. Trade and investment ties with the US remain among the highest," he said during a staff meeting at the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

"We must therefore consider all possibilities. We do not want any economic policy that ultimately harms the people, affects jobs

or impacts livelihoods," he added.

Anwar said a meeting will be held tomorrow, coordinated by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, together with Asean counterparts to align their positions on the US tariff issue.

On April 2, US President Donald Trump announced new tariffs impacting Asean nations, including a 10% base rate effective April 5 and an additional "reciprocal tariff" starting tomorrow, Bernama reported.

Among the hardest hit were Cambodia with 49%, Laos with 48%, Vietnam with 46% and Myanmar with 44%, while Thailand recorded 36%, Indonesia 32%, Brunei and Malaysia 24% each, the Philippines 17% and Singapore 10%.

Anwar also underlined the need for the entire government machinery to improve efficiency, uphold work ethics and practise

prudent spending to navigate current economic challenges.

"The decline in the stock market, commodities and trade in the US is among the worst in recent history. Reports indicate losses of up to US\$4 trillion in the markets. This certainly affects their decisions and we hope it can be negotiated more constructively," he said.

He also reminded civil service leaders not to take the government's reform agenda lightly.

"There are still reports of negligence, leakages, corruption and abuse of power. Department and ministry heads must remain vigilant as our mission is to strengthen the nation and ensure Malaysia continues to grow in stature."

Also present were ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said (Law and Institutional Reform) and Datuk Mohd Naim Mokhtar (Religious Affairs), as well as Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.



Anwar having a discussion with Zahid and Fadillah during a staff meeting at the Prime Minister's Department.  
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