

PM: TRUMP TO ATTEND ASEAN SUMMIT IN OCTOBER

Anwar says US president thanked Malaysia for brokering ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia

KUALA LUMPUR

UNITED States President Donald Trump will attend the Asean Summit here in October, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

Anwar, speaking at the tabling of the 13th Malaysia Plan in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, said this was confirmed during his phone call with the US president.

"I would like to inform the house that at 6.50am, I had the opportunity to speak with President Trump over the phone.

"He confirmed that he will attend the 47th Asean Summit in October."

The confirmation follows an official invitation extended to Trump through US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, during his courtesy call on Anwar on July 10.

Rubio, who was in Kuala Lumpur to attend the 58th Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting, said Washington was working to finalise a suitable date for Trump's visit to Malaysia.

The 13th Asean-US Summit is scheduled to take place in conjunction with the 47th Asean Summit.

The last time a sitting US president attended the summit in Kuala Lumpur was in November 2015, when former president Barack Obama was present.

The 47th Asean Summit,

scheduled from Oct 26 to 28, is expected to be one of the largest ever held by the 10-nation bloc.

Apart from Trump's participation, the three-day event is also expected to feature top officials from China, Japan, South Korea and India, as well as Asean nations' heads of state.

Meanwhile, Anwar said Trump, during their phone call, expressed his gratitude to Malaysia for brokering the ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia.

"He expressed his deep appreciation for Malaysia's role in helping to resolve the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia.

"I said this was due to the Asean consensus and the positive attitude of both countries, as well as the cooperation shown by the US, especially Trump, and Chinese President Xi Jinping."

On July 28, Malaysia, as the Asean chair, hosted a meeting involving Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and acting Thai Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayacha here.

After the meeting, both countries agreed to an immediate and unconditional ceased fire.

On another subject Anwar said Trump would announce the tariff rate to be imposed on Malaysia by today.

"We are discussing the tariff issue in the spirit and principle to free trade.

"This also applies to negotiations involving the Investment Trade and Industry Ministry with the US trade representative and secretary of commerce."

Washington announced that Malaysia would be hit with a 25 per cent tariff rate on goods exported to the US unless it can strike a deal by Aug 1.

Last week, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said Malaysia was aiming for the "lowest possible" tariff rate.



Donald Trump