

# Anwar to meet Rubio

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has confirmed that he will meet US Secretary of State Marco Rubio today to discuss the retaliatory tariffs imposed on Malaysia.

The meeting follows the Asean Post-Ministerial Conference with the US, held with the 58th Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM).

Anwar said he would raise the tariff issues with Rubio.

"I am meeting him and I will raise some of these issues (trade) for his consideration so they can also be taken up before the final decision by President Trump."

He said Malaysia had also sent teams to negotiate and explain its position as a trading nation.

"As such, any unilateral tariffs will, of course, impact negatively

on the economy of this country and this region.

"But we are still in the midst of negotiations," he said.

Rubio departed for Malaysia on Tuesday for meetings with Asean leaders.

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The short visit to Kuala Lumpur is intended to allow Rubio, who also serves as Trump's national security adviser, to focus on US policy in Asia, following months of Washington's attention on the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Earlier this week, Trump announced that a 25 per cent import duty on Malaysian goods would take effect from Aug 1.

He justified the measure as a way to "protect domestic industries" from what he described as unfair trade practices by several countries.