

# A MONTH TO RENEGOTIATE TARIFF

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Trade, Gaza among issues raised in Anwar's meeting with Rubio

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**T**HE 25 per cent tariff imposed on Malaysia is not final, with a one-month window for the country to negotiate a lower rate with the United States, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. He said the tariff, imposed by

the US administration under President Donald Trump, was among several matters raised during his meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Parliament yesterday.

Anwar described the meeting as "beneficial", citing Washington's openness to review trade tariffs and its ongoing engagement with Malaysia and Asean.

"We brought up the issue of tariffs imposed by President Trump.

"He (Rubio) stated that the letter was a general instrument, but there is still a window of one month for negotiations.

"He is aware that Malaysia is a key trading nation with the US in this region. He will take into con-

sideration our views and relay them (to Trump)."

Anwar said other matters discussed during the meeting included the ongoing obliteration of Palestinians in Gaza.

"I stressed during the meeting that all the atrocities must stop."

Anwar added that Rubio appeared optimistic a ceasefire would be reached.

"They said the latest information showed strong efforts underway, and they seemed confident there would be a ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid to reach Gaza."

Anwar said he also highlighted broader regional concerns.

"On other issues of reconciliation, I emphasised that we here

are also affected when there is intrusion or disruption."

He said the US reiterated its commitment to strengthening ties with Asean.

"The US still considers its relationship with Malaysia important and wants to maintain it, even increase cooperation with Asean and its member states."

Anwar stressed Malaysia's balanced approach in foreign relations.

"They understand our position — that we want good relations and trade with all countries.

"This is important, because many assume we must pick sides but in actual fact, no.

"The US is a key trading partner. But our ties with China,

Asean countries, and others will also be enhanced to protect the interests of our people and bring benefit to the country."

Rubio, when met at the 58th Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting, declined to comment on the outcome of the meeting with Anwar and the Asean Post Ministerial Meeting. He offered only a smile and a thumbs-up.

The brief stop in Kuala Lumpur marks Rubio's first trip to Asia as President Donald Trump's National Security Adviser.

*Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio at Parliament yesterday.*

# ONE MONTH TO NEGOTIATE

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says the 25 per cent US tariff on Malaysian goods is not final after raising the issue in a meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- Rubio optimistic Gaza ceasefire will be reached
- US reiterates commitment to Asean

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PARLIMEN MALAYSIA

