

'SEVERAL CONDITIONS'

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Malaysia still has time to negotiate US tariff, says PM

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pg. 3

BUKIT MERTAJAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia still has time to negotiate with the United States over the recently imposed 25 per cent tariff.

In recent negotiations between the Indonesian government and the US, the tariff imposed on Indonesia was reportedly reduced from 30 per cent to 19 per cent, said Anwar, who is on a one-day visit to Penang.

He said Malaysia would enter negotiations with several conditions to ensure positive outcomes.

"The global economy is in a fragile state, including challenges such as tariff hikes under US President Donald Trump.

"We (Malaysia) have until early August to make a decision (to begin negotiations) using a different approach.

"Indonesia negotiated its rate down from 30 per cent to 19 per cent. Last week, it was reported that Thailand's tariff remains at 30 per cent, and Cambodia's is still at 40 per cent.

"We are still negotiating, but there are several conditions that we have firmly stated," he said at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Penang here yesterday.

Present were Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek, Penang Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Mohamad Abdul Hamid and Penang Bumiputera Development Council chairman Tan Sri Khalid Ramli.

It was reported that Malaysia was ramping up discussions with the US on the 25 per cent tariff, as it sought to resolve key tariff and non-tariff issues ahead of a looming Aug 1 deadline.

Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz had said the ministry had a productive engagement with the US trade representative and was working to identify areas where both parties can reach an agreement.

Meanwhile, Anwar said Malaysia received international recognition during its chairmanship of the Asean Summit.

"We managed to gather foreign ministers from major countries (for the summit). Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea (and) China, (as well as) the US and Russia, all came to negotiate here. *Alhamdulillah*, Malaysia received global recognition for hosting the event."