

'NO BUCKLING UNDER U.S. TARIFF PRESSURE'

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PM says country committed to firm stance on Gaza, ties with Iran despite US, Mossad scrutiny

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MALAYSIA will not budge on its firm stance on Middle East tensions and global affairs despite the threat of higher tariffs from the United States and facing heightened scrutiny by Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

He said Malaysia's foreign policy was guided by the principles of sovereignty, justice and international law, and no amount of pressure, including economic threats, would deter the country from taking a firm and independent stance.

"Malaysia will not waver in voicing its support on geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, including the Palestinian cause and its relations with Iran, even if the country faces higher retaliatory tariffs from the United States," Anwar said during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. PIC FROM INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Rakyat yesterday.

"We still have time until August and negotiations are ongoing.

"I do not want to pre-empt anything. While the meeting with Marco Rubio (US Secretary of State) touched on the matter, it was not the main issue.

"Malaysia's tariffs remain lower than Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. However, we do not consider the US decision to be fair. It was a unilateral move that violated World Trade Organisation principles, international trade norms and existing agreements.

"Regardless of any pressure, consequences or objections to our position on Palestine, Gaza or our good relations with Iran, it will not change our firm stance."

Anwar said in the most recent round of negotiations, there were still no clear indications of a resolution, but several considerations were discussed for tariffs.

Earlier this month, US President Donald Trump announced a 25 per cent import duty on Malaysian goods, effective Aug 1. He justified the measure as a way to "protect domestic industries" from what he described as unfair trade practices by several countries.

On Mossad, Anwar said Malaysia's outspoken position on issues such as Palestine had drawn the attention of Israeli operatives, becoming a target for arms and drug smuggling networks.