



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, in his keynote address at the 38th Asia-Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, says disruptions in trade and supply chains will have detrimental effects on businesses and hamper economic growth. BERNAMA PIC

TEMPORARY EXEMPTION EXPIRING ON JULY 8

# PM: TARIFF TALKS PROGRESSING WELL

NEW STRAITS TIMES 20 JUN 2025

pg. 2

Govt firm on securing 'what is fair for Malaysia' while pushing case for Asean, says Anwar

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**D**ISCUSSIONS with the United States over its tariffs on Malaysian goods, ahead of the expiry of a temporary exemption on July 8, are progressing well.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he had received updates on the discussions from Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

"This morning, I received a message from the ministers (Tengku Zafrul and Amir Hamzah) that the meeting with the US secretary of commerce (Howard Lutnick) and state representatives went very well.

"We have always stressed the importance of securing what is fair for Malaysia, but also of pre-

sending the case for Asean.

"I urge my colleagues in Asean to do the same, which is to present their bilateral positions while also emphasising the importance of Asean remaining a cohesive and effective bloc," he said in his keynote address at the 38th Asia-Pacific Roundtable yesterday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, added that the imposition of unilateral tariffs posed a significant challenge to Malaysia and the region, given their deep integration into the global supply chain.

He said 60 per cent of Malaysia's semiconductor and electrical and electronic products were exported to the US.

He said international trade must be governed by transparent rules and legal predictability, not by unilateralism or coercive economic measures.

"Disruptions in trade and supply chains will have detrimental effects on businesses and hamper economic growth, further impacting efforts to ensure the socioeconomic well-being of the people."

He said Malaysia would continue to engage with the US, China, the European Union, India and other partners in advancing its national interests.

"And let there be no doubt: Malaysia's strategy of active non-

alignment is a deliberate and principled framework designed to maximise strategic flexibility, preserve decision-making autonomy, and engage all partners on our own terms.

"Over the past two years, Malaysia has reached out to like-minded partners in the Global South to bridge regions, build collective resolve and promote shared prosperity.

"Our focus is clear, pragmatic, coordinated and action-oriented cooperation. It is in this spirit that we have revitalised our pursuit of greater inter-regional connectivity and collaboration."

He added that the recent reinvigoration of BRICS to include new members and partner countries from the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa and South America represented the essence of bridging regions.

Malaysia, he said, looked forward to collaborating as a partner country and exploring new avenues for niche-area cooperation.

"Contrary to reductionist perspectives on why several Southeast Asian countries are engaging with BRICS, it is neither about taking sides nor turning away from the West.

"It is a manifestation of agency, autonomy and trust in sustained cooperation to address shared challenges," he added.