

PM: We won't be dictated to

ISKANDAR PUTERI: Malaysia has always prioritised national interests in its foreign policy and will not be dictated by external powers, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

Anwar said the country's approach to international engagement must be guided by its own needs and remain free from any interference.

He was speaking at the closing ceremony of the two-day Nikkei Forum Medini Johor.

"Our relationship with the United States must remain strong. But no one can dictate that we be too friendly to the US, China or Japan.

"We are an open trading country, and our policies must reflect the best interests of our people."

He reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to a principled and multilateral trade approach.

While the US remains an important export destination, he said, Malaysia will not condone unilateral tariff actions.

"Malaysia will continue strengthening relations with Asean countries, China, Japan, South Korea and other regional allies."

Meanwhile, he said that Malaysia's economic and technological progress will remain rooted in the moral values and cultural identity of its people.

He said while the nation embraced artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, it will not abandon its core values and principles.