

# Tariff talks with the US went well, says Anwar

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said discussions between Malaysia and the US on the imposition of unilateral tariffs had proceeded smoothly.

Anwar said he was informed of the positive progress by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, who are currently in the US.

"This morning, I received a message from (Tengku Zafrul) and the finance minister that their meeting with the US Secretary of Commerce, who has been extremely busy, went excellently," he said in his keynote address at the 38th Asia-Pacific Roundtable: Recalibrating Asia's Frontiers event yesterday.

He added that Malaysia continues to rely on sound reasoning and principle in pursuing what is fair and just, and called on fellow Asean member states to adopt a similar approach.

Tengku Zafrul arrived in the US on Tuesday to begin negotiations over the impending reimposition of US reciprocal tariffs, ahead of the July 8 expiry of a temporary 90-day suspension.

Malaysia currently faces a 24% tariff on selected exports to the US.

He said his delegation's main focus was to negotiate better market access and address supply chain challenges.

Meanwhile, Anwar reiterated that international trade must be governed by transparent rules and legal predictability, not unilateral actions or coercive economic measures.

"Disruptions in trade and supply chains will only bring detrimental effects to businesses and hamper economic growth, further impacting efforts to safeguard the socioeconomic well-being of the people," he said.

He described the US imposition of unilateral tariffs as a significant challenge for Malaysia and the region, as both are deeply integrated into global supply chains.

"Malaysia will continue to engage constructively with the US, China, the European Union, India and others in advancing our national interests. And let there be no doubt that Malaysia's strategy of active non-alignment is a deliberate and principled framework – one designed to maximise strategic flexibility, preserve decision-making autonomy and allow us to engage all partners on our own terms," he said.

Anwar added that Malaysia looks forward to collaborating as a BRICS partner country, and to exploring new avenues for cooperation within the grouping.

He added that the recent expansion of BRICS to include members and partners from the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa and South America reflects its role in bridging regions and promoting inclusive engagement. – Bernama