

PM: WE TRADE WITH EVERYONE

Malaysia does not bow to any major power, says Anwar

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MALAYSIA has taken a firm stand on expanding its trade with all countries, prioritising the interests of its people, job creation and economic growth, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said. He said as an independent and sovereign nation, Malaysia determines its own course in international relations and does not

bow to any major power.

"During my recent meeting with United States President Donald Trump, many questioned the reception given to him.

"Our position is balanced because we trade with everyone. For instance, in Penang, many residents work with American companies.

"If I were to act like a hero and criticise the US, the people who would suffer are those employed in the supply chain. Before I make any statement, I must think about all these factors," he said.

Anwar said maintaining a balanced approach was crucial to ensure Malaysia continued to be seen as a stable and trusted investment destination.

He was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the traffic dispersal project between the Juru Toll Plaza and Sungai Dua Toll

Plaza at the Seberang Jaya Expo Site here yesterday.

He said Malaysia would attend the G20 Summit in South Africa later this month despite some parties been barred from participation.

"We maintain friendship with all. Yes, we have good relations with the US, but we are also friendly with others.

"If we were to bow to the US, I wouldn't have invited Brazil or President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, who is chairing the G20.

"President Donald Trump has announced that no US representatives will attend the G20, but I will go because Malaysia is an independent, sovereign and free nation.

"If we were to follow US directives, we wouldn't be going to the G20 Summit," he said.

Anwar added that as a trading nation, Malaysia must continue to strengthen relations with a diverse range of countries — not only the US, but also China, Brazil and South Africa — to broaden its trade and investment networks.

"It's not enough to have strong ties only with the US and China. We must build connections with many countries to make Malaysia a confident and competitive trading nation."

On the home front, he ordered all agencies and departments involved in infrastructure-related projects to accelerate construction processes.

He said Malaysia's globally recognised performance opened up many investment opportunities. This, he said, would require infrastructure aspects to be improved because guaranteed in-

frastructure is a priority for investors.

"Not many countries can achieve what we do because of the spirit and interest.

"We are never perfect, and I have never claimed that we are perfect. If there are weaknesses, we must correct them. Project delays should not happen and projects need to be expedited.

"(That is why) we object to corruption (which is the cause of delays), and it is still happening.

"We (the government) issue warnings and give full clearance to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, police and Inland Revenue Board to proceed with investigations.

"So, we managed to collect a large amount of funds, saving the country from leakages, wastage and corruption. But the agenda is not yet complete."