



**PM BEGINS  
AFRICA TOUR**

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on board a plane bound for Ethiopia, the first stop in his Africa tour, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport's Bunga Raya Complex yesterday. PIC FROM PM'S OFFICE

**AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL TRADE**

# PM: NO U.S. CURBS ON STRATEGIC SECTORS

**Managing monetary policy, negotiating and trading with other countries not affected, says Anwar**

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**T**HE agreement on reciprocal trade with the United States does not restrict Malaysia from managing its monetary policy or strategic sectors, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the agreement would also not limit Malaysia from negotiating or trading with other countries, including China.

"While some have expressed worries about the reciprocal trade agreement, it does not mean Malaysia has surrendered its economic sovereignty or monetary policy space. Trade and investment decisions remain under Malaysia's control," he said.

"Three examples are the most important: rare earths, semiconductors and currency, because these are the ones given the

biggest attention."

He was responding to supplementary questions from Datuk Awang Solahuddin Hashim (PN-Pendang), who asked whether the agreement limits Malaysia's ability to use the ringgit exchange rate or to make overseas investment decisions, and requires Malaysia to disclose strategic information solely to the US.

Anwar cited examples such as local currency transactions with China, Thailand and Indonesia, which continued to operate as usual.

"Even under the agreement, local currency denomination in trade with China, Thailand, and Indonesia, is allowed. So why should anyone be upset? The deal is still ongoing."

He added that Malaysian companies remained free to pursue foreign investments without interference, regardless of obligations due to the agreement.

"If a company is American, we cannot export chips to China, that's fine. But investments from Germany or China to produce chips and export to China? We say yes."

Anwar, who is finance minister, said the consultation mechanisms under the trade agreement and International Monetary Fund Article 4, which allow foreign institutions to provide advice or recommendations, did

not prevent Bank Negara Malaysia from independently determining its monetary policies.

He also said allegations that Malaysia had "surrendered" part of its economic decision-making to the US was unfounded.

"We continue to participate fully in international trade and investment, including projects with China, without any hindrance."

Anwar highlighted Malaysia's participation in global initiatives such as BRICS, despite opposition from the US, asserting that the country maintained independent decision-making in international economic relations.

"Malaysia can hold differing views while continuing negotiations and trade with various countries without losing economic freedom or monetary policy space."

He urged critics to differentiate between consultation and surrender of sovereignty.

"Consultation does not mean we have lost control. Malaysian companies and government institutions continue to make decisions in the national interest."

Anwar also said Malaysia will maintain transparency and provide updates on international trade agreements, while protecting the country's economic independence and monetary stability.