

PM: DEAL WITH U.S. HAS EXIT CLAUSES

Anwar chides opposition over 'half-truths'

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia's reciprocal trade deal with the United States contains exit clauses designed to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and interests.

Speaking in the Dewan Rakyat, Anwar criticised opposition leaders for "turning half-truths into absolutes", stressing that the agreement was built on mutual benefit and flexibility, not subservience.

"There is an exit clause and provisions for security considerations and national law. Our position is clear," he said.

"We gave priority to the US on Saturday, to China on Monday, and in two weeks, when I visit South Africa, I'll give priority to South Africa. That's how diplomacy works."

Anwar said Malaysia needed robust trade and investment ties with multiple partners, including both the US and China, and that criticising either relationship was short-sighted.

"When we're friendly with China, we're attacked. Now that we've signed with the US, we're attacked again. So who does that leave us with? Are we only allowed to be nice to Kedah and Kelantan?"

He was responding to Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal Fayhsal (PN-Machang), who alleged that the deal contained 40 restrictive clauses and likened it to a form of neo-colonialism.

Anwar said the agreement would not undermine Malaysia's sovereignty or its rare-earth policy, pointing out that China had reviewed the deal "line by line".

He also dismissed claims that the pact would restrict Malaysia's cooperation with China, or force the government to make RM1 trillion in purchases.

"The commitment to purchase US goods does not involve government funds.

"These are commercial transactions by government-linked com-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says Malaysia's success in hosting the 47th Asean Summit should be a source of pride for all Malaysians. BERNAMA PIC

panies, such as Malaysia Airlines, which bought 30 aircraft from Airbus and 30 from Boeing, or Petronas's LNG imports. The same applies to Google and Microsoft investments."

Anwar urged critics to read and understand the agreement before making baseless accusations, adding that Malaysia maintained the right to reject any unfavourable investment terms.

"If American investors say their products made in Malaysia cannot be exported to China, that's their right. Similarly, if Chinese investors want to export to China or elsewhere, we won't stop them.

"If we disagree with the terms, we simply don't accept the investment."

He said Malaysia had banned the export of raw rare earth elements, allowing only value-added processing.

He said defence cooperation, with the US continued under the same principles of non-alignment and sovereignty.

"So what's the issue? What matters is that no foreign power, whether the US or China, conducts activities here that could be seen as provocative. That's our consistent stance."

On global affairs, Anwar said Malaysia had directly urged US President Donald Trump to ensure Israel honours the Gaza ceasefire.

"We are not a nation that shouts from afar. We have the courage to speak the truth face to face, in pursuit of lasting peace for Palestine," he said, adding that Malaysia had gained international recognition for its mediation efforts in regional conflicts.

He said Malaysia would continue engaging major powers, including the US, to push for a comprehensive resolution to the Gaza crisis, one that goes beyond ceasefires to guarantee Palestinian sovereignty and dignity.

The prime minister also said Malaysia's success in hosting the 47th Asean Summit should be a source of pride for all Malaysians, regardless of political affiliation, and not a subject of criticism or division.

He said among the significant achievements during the summit were the admission of Timor-Leste as Asean's 11th member and the signing of the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord between Thailand and Cambodia, both milestones that should unite Malaysians in shared pride.

Anwar said international recognition, including from major powers such as the US, of Malaysia's active role in promoting regional peace clearly demonstrated the growing confidence in the country's diplomatic capability.

"Today, Malaysia's name shines on the world stage... something that has rarely happened in our history. Let us seize this moment to strengthen our nation.

"Do not be resentful of our nation's success. This is the country's achievement. Prime ministers may come and go, rise and fall, but the nation must always be uplifted."

He was responding to a supplementary question from Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman (Muda-Muar) on Malaysia's efforts to balance its diplomatic and trade relations with major global powers.