

# PM: Ringgit strength a boon to the economy

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the recent strengthening of the ringgit has had positive effects on Malaysia's economy.

"Under normal circumstances, when the ringgit strengthens, there are positive effects, although there are some concerns related to exports and imports," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

"If we have a choice, the ringgit should strengthen in a prudent and gradual manner, but sometimes this happens beyond expectations. Investor confidence cannot be fully controlled."

He was responding to a question by Datuk Dr Ku Abd Rahman bin Ku Ismail (PN-Kubang Pasu) on the impact of the ringgit's appreciation on Malaysia's exports and imports, and the factors driving the currency's gains.

He said the strengthening of the ringgit reflected growing confidence in Malaysia's economic system and increasing investment.

"The ringgit had weakened for

a long time, and when actions and activities demonstrate confidence in the national economic system and increased investment, this contributes to its strengthening."

Anwar added that the overall economic figures were showing positive signs, which had helped strengthen the ringgit's position.

He said the ringgit's performance should be viewed together with broader economic indicators. He also highlighted the importance of domestic measures in ensuring economic stability.

The ringgit opened firmer against the US dollar yesterday morning, supported by a weaker greenback as speculation over possible currency intervention by United States and Japanese authorities intensified.

At 8am, the ringgit traded at 3.9650/9750 versus the US dollar, softer than Tuesday's close of 3.9615/9670.

The ringgit last traded at a similar level on May 24, 2018, when it touched RM3.9797 against the greenback.