



**Malaysian Iron & Steel Industry Federation**

Co. Reg. No. 76350P GST Reg. No. 001781899264

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **MISIF urges the government to reinforce anti-dumping legislation and expedite investigation to mitigate the anticipated trade diversion**

President Donald Trump has recently announced a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports into the United States. This policy is part of a broader strategy to reshape international trade relations and is set to take effect on 12 March 2025, without any exemptions for specific countries.

In response to President Donald Trump's statement, MISIF wishes to highlight that the direct consequences of the 25% tariffs remain uncertain but are expected to accelerate trade diversion, leading to a surge of steel products into the Malaysian market.

China has utilised countries such as Canada, Mexico, Brazil and Vietnam to circumvent US tariffs. In response to this, numerous North and South American countries have implemented their own version of tariffs over the past six months to stop the flood of Chinese steel products into their respective countries, but the damage has been done. This is one of the main reasons why the US has removed exemptions and exceptions given to them in the past. With these new tariffs and with the expansion to downstream goods, this new environment does not make them viable export destinations. Countries like China that previously circumvented tariffs, Korea, Japan and Vietnam that obtained exceptions with yearly quotas will likely be diverting their exports to Malaysia. Vietnam and Japan have free and direct access to Malaysia via the existing Free Trade Agreement (FTAs).

Governments in ASEAN are already taking steps to address the influx. Vietnam and Indonesia have imposed anti-dumping tariffs on Chinese goods, and Thailand has recently announced measures to monitor cheap imports. Access into Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam has been significantly tightened recently with their respective governments paying detailed close attention to excess steel being dumped into their respective countries domestic steel industry.

Without immediate and decisive action, Malaysian steel manufacturers will suffer lasting and irreversible damage. We strongly urge the government to take swift action - reinforce anti-dumping legislation, expedite investigations, and implement measures to protect the industry before severe repercussions occur.

The iron and steel industry is a strategic sector vital to Malaysia's economic growth, supporting key sectors such as infrastructure, construction, and manufacturing. Without fair trade practices, Malaysian steel producers' risk being displaced by unfairly priced imports, leading to plant closures, job losses, and a weakened industrial base.

MISIF remains committed to collaborating closely with policymakers to safeguard the interests of the domestic steel industry and uphold fair market practices.

**Statement by:**

**Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation**

**(马来西亚钢铁工业联合会)**

**28E & 30E, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Block 2, Worldwide Business Park**

**Jalan Tinju 13/50, Section 13,**

**40675 Shah Alam, Selangor, MALAYSIA**

**Tel: 603-5513 3970**

**Fax: 603-5513 3891**

**Email: [enquiry@misif.org.my](mailto:enquiry@misif.org.my)**

**Homepage: [www.misif.org.my](http://www.misif.org.my)**

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