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Dr M: Pact can plunge country into crisis

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SHAH ALAM: The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) could once again plunge the country into an economic crisis similar to what Malaysia faced in 1997 and 1998.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was against the TPPA as the country could lose control of its currency and this would indirectly open the way for currency trade by signing the international trade agreement.

“When there is currency trading, it will push our currency down and we will become poor.

“This is one of the reasons I am against the TPPA as it can bring back the currency crisis. Therefore, I hope the government will not agree to TPPA.

“I understand that the government is trying to reduce the deficit and it has to study why this happened. I hope the government does

not overspend money we don't have until we have to borrow money, just like what happened to Greece.

“In Greece, they keep spending money and at the same time, continue to borrow money,” he said at press conference here, when asked to comment on the possibility that Asian countries could once again face an economic crisis.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali spent about an hour visiting Red Carpet@i-City in i-City.

Commenting on the screening of controversial movies *Tanda Putera* and *The New Village*, he said it was unfair if only one movie was allowed to be screened.

“If we intend to ban, it is best to ban both. If we plan to screen, both movies must be screened and we must let the community be the judge.”