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MTEM submits TPPA plan to Govt



VIP guest: Najib shaking hands with MTEM members at the group's open house celebration.

75-point resolution aims to benefit Malaysia

PETALING JAYA: The Malay Economic Action Council (MTEM) has submitted a 75-point resolution to the Government aimed at ensuring a better deal for Malaysia after holding a two-day roundtable discussion on the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).

The resolution was handed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak during the group's open house celebration yesterday.

Among others, it expressed concern over the agreement's impact on small and medium enterprises, government procurement, intellectual property, financial services, telecommunications and public health.

Its CEO Mohd Nizam Mahshar said that the coalition, representing some 200 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), remained unconvinced that the agreement would benefit the country and were concerned that it could cause a negative impact on local businesses.

"These are the guidelines that should be used when negotiating the agreement. Or else, Malaysia should withdraw from it.

"The Government should also take the resolution as a national position," he said.

The TPPA is an international trade pact being negotiated among countries in the Pacific Rim that has attracted much protest and criticism including from former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Mohd Nizam also noted that MTEM had met with the International Trade and Industry Ministry over their resolution and demanded to be part of the cost-benefit analysis of the TPPA.

"We want to be involved with the development and the framework of the analysis and the cost-benefit study and in principal they have agreed to let us be a part of it.

"We are providing our ideas to the Government by putting forward our resolutions," he said.

Asked if the Government had indicated it would not adopt the resolutions, he said that "the resolution committee was still providing their input".

"But we will take stronger action if the resolutions are not adopted," he said.

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