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Anwar claims govt rejected opposition views on deal

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KUALA LUMPUR: Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim alleged that the Federal Government has rejected the opposition pact's views on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).

Anwar, in a meeting with United States National Security Council director ambassador Susan Rice yesterday told her that he was concerned over the TPPA, and believed that Malaysia was a trading nation that must attract foreign direct investment to survive in a challenging global economy.

Present during the meeting were US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel, and DAP and Pas secretary-generals Lim Guan Eng and Datuk Mustafa Ali.

In a statement, Anwar said: "Pakatan has voiced its concerns about the TPPA, specifically regarding its stipulations about the agricultural sector, pharmaceutical sector and the exposure to complex and costly litigation that Malaysia may face upon signing the agreement."

US president Barack Obama had, during his three-day visit here which ended yesterday, urged Malaysians not to make assumptions on the TPPA and said it was imperative for everyone to wait for the final agreements before jumping to conclusions.

In **Kuching**, Bernama quoted former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as saying that the government should ensure that Malaysia will not be on the losing



Former prime minister **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad** says the government should ensure that Malaysia is **not on the losing side** before signing the TPPA

side before signing the agreement.

While he personally felt that there was no necessity for Malaysia to sign the pact, he acknowledged that the final decision laid in the hands of the government.

According to him, upon signing the TPPA, the Malaysian market would be opened up further and this might not necessarily benefit Malaysians. The TPPA is negotiated by 12 countries, led by the US with the aim to further liberalise the economies of the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Mahathir hoped Obama would live up to his word of not bullying Malaysia into signing the agreement. At the same time, the former prime minister also acknowledged the need for both countries to maintain good relations.