

Activists want Mahathir, Anwar to share stage to protest TPPA
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BY RITA JONG

A youth group organising nationwide rallies against the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement trade pact wants to unite Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and protege-turned-nemesis Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on stage for its final rally.

The Solidarity Anak Muda Malaysia (SAMM) group said the rally would be the climax in a series of 15 rallies and public lectures that the non-governmental organisation planned to stage nationwide from September 17.

It would also coincide with United States President Barrack Obama's visit to Malaysia on October 11.

SAMM chief Badrul Hisham Shahrin said Dr Mahathir and Anwar have been vocal in calling for the government to reject the TPPA. At the same time, they have also accused each other of being pro-US.

"Let's give them a chance to set egos and domestic politics aside and defend the country's economic sovereignty," Badrul Hisham said in a statement today.

"We have prepared the invitations for the two leaders and would announce more details next week."

Badrul Hisham said he hoped Dr Mahathir and Anwar would share a giant stage on October 10, the day before Obama's visit.

The roadshows were organised with a coalition of some 200 non-governmental organisations, including the Malay Economic Action Council (MTEM).

Malaysia's participation in the on-going TPPA negotiations has drawn a lot of criticisms from politicians on both sides of the divide.

TPPA is a free trade agreement currently being privately negotiated by nine countries – United States, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. – September 4, 2013.

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