

**Malaysia Will Implement A Majority Of AEC Measures By Next Year, Says Mustapa  
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will implement most of the measures under the Asean Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint by next year, says International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

He said Malaysia had reached close to 88 per cent implementation of the measures, todate.

The average Asean implementation rate of the AEC Blueprint was 72 per cent.

"The priority for Malaysia is the elimination of non-tariff barriers, movement of skilled labour and professional services and promotion of intra Asean investment," he told reporters after a dialogue with industry players on the AEC Wednesday.

Mustapa said there was also a need to create awareness on the benefits of AEC and the main objective of the informal dialogue today was to garner feedback from various stakeholders on regional economic integration initiatives and moving Asean beyond AEC 2015.

The half-day informal dialogue was aimed at gathering views from stakeholders on Malaysia's economic deliverables during the country's Asean chairmanship in 2015.

This, he added, also served as a platform between policy makers and market players to share essential information and insights to strengthen Malaysia's leadership role in steering Asean's regional integration beyond 2015.

However, Mustapa said, there was still a gap between the aspiration of the AEC and what has been realised on the ground in terms of simplifying rules and regulations.

In this respect, he said, Asean members would have to take a more active role in addressing structural and regulatory barriers in order to achieve a dynamic single market where there would be free flow of goods, services, investment and freer flow of capital and skilled workers.

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