

TPPA: We Must Not Be On The Losing Side, Says Tun Mahathir

Bernama

28

Apr,

2014

KUCHING, April 28 (Bernama) -- The government should ensure that Malaysia will not be on the losing side before choosing to sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed said today.

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

"They (developed countries) are rich and have the technology and can supersede our (government) policies to help the people," he told reporters after attending the International Federation of Landscape Architects Asia-Pacific Region (IFLA-APR) conference here.

He was invited as a prime keynote speaker at the conference organised jointly by IFLA-APR and the Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia.

According to him, upon signing the TPPA, Malaysian market would be opened up further that would not necessarily would benefit Malaysians.

The TPPA is currently being negotiated by 11 countries led by the United States with the aim to further liberalise the economies of the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Mahathir hoped United States president Barack Obama, who had just ended his three-day state visit to Malaysia today, would live up to his words not to bully Malaysia into signing the agreement.

At the same time, the former prime minister also acknowledged the needs for the two countries to maintain the good relationship between them and the United States' position as one of Malaysia's largest trading partners.

"The good relationship will benefit Malaysia as well as the United States," he added.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=1034204>