

Malaysia will not sign Pacific trade pact in Hawaii, says minister
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Malaysia will not sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) at the ministerial meeting in Hawaii from July 28 to 31, says Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

Mustapa, who heads the Malaysian negotiating team comprising experts from over 20 ministries and agencies, said: "The signing of the TPPA will not happen in Hawaii."

In a statement today, he said, like Malaysia, each TPPA member would need to go through its own domestic process before a final decision to sign and ratify the pact was made.

"As the minister in charge of the TPPA talks, it is my responsibility to ensure that our constitution, sovereignty and core policies of the nation, including the interests of the Bumiputera community, are safeguarded and upheld.

"Our objective at this meeting is to ensure that Malaysia's interests and concerns are addressed," he said.

He said after five years, the TPPA negotiations are nearing conclusion and at this stage countries need to make hard decisions.

"As in all negotiations there are concessions that need to be made," he said.

He said the government has taken a firm stand in the TPPA, in which the country's constitution, sovereignty and core policies such as government procurement, state-owned enterprises and the Bumiputera agenda will be safeguarded.

"I urge Malaysians to keep an open mind on the TPPA. Acknowledge that while there are costs, there are also benefits to the country," he said.

Mustapa said the feedback from all parties regarding TPPA has helped guide and influence his negotiating stance on various issues under discussion.

He said ultimately, the final document, together with the two cost-and-benefit analyses will be presented to the public and Parliament.

The decision whether to sign or reject TPPA will be a collective Malaysian decision, he said.

Mustapa said the TPPA did not prevent governments from pursuing and regulating legitimate public policy objectives, especially in areas such as national security, public health environment and welfare. – Bernama, July 29, 2015.

Source:

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