

**No need for Parliament approval for TPPA, says Mustapa
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The government does not need the approval of Parliament to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), but are engaging the Dewan Rakyat out of choice, International Trade and Industries Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said.

According to an interview in *Mingguan Malaysia*, Mustapa said the government was bringing the issue to Parliament as it had attracted plenty of criticism.

He also said no amendments could be made to TPPA, adding that Parliament could either accept it or reject it as a whole.

"It's a question of whether we want it or not. For example, textiles and palm oil will have bigger markets. If we reject, we reject the whole agreement," he was quoted as saying in the Umno-owned paper.

He also said that if Malaysia rejected the TPPA, it stood to lose foreign investment.

"Maybe the foreign investors will run away and that will affect our companies," he was quoted as saying in the report.

He said the TPPA document had not been made public yet to avoid "chaos" and constant demands for amendments.

"We gave the document to researchers as they need to have a look at it."

There were still three more issues to be ironed out in the deal, and they need to be relayed to Khazanah Nasional, Petronas, and the Finance Ministry, he said.

The trade pact was signed recently between 12 countries.

The deal has attracted criticism from the opposition, who had claimed that it would cause a spike in generic drug prices and add to the burden of rising cost of living. – October 11, 2015.

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