

**Umno has succeeded, world accepts Bumiputera agenda, says Najib  
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By Anisah Shukry**

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today the world acknowledged Malaysia's Bumiputera agenda as several countries had signed onto the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), adding that their acceptance showed Umno had succeeded in its struggle.

He said in his policy speech at the Umno general assembly that he was not apologetic for defending the Bumiputera agenda when negotiating over the multinational trading pact.

"In fact, we made history once again, when members of the TPPA accepted and acknowledged the Bumiputera policies as part of the TPPA terms at the global level.

"This means Umno's struggle has succeeded and the Bumiputera agenda is not just a national agenda, but the Bumiputera agenda has been raised and recognised on the world's stage."

Najib also defended the TPPA, saying it was a free trade agreement that was "comprehensive and encompassed a variety of scope of fields".

He added that it was in line with the Islamic principle of "tahaluf iktisadi", or economic cooperation.

He said the government was taking a leaf from the book of one of Prophet Muhammad's companions, Abdul Rahman Auf, who dared to compete not just with Muslims but with Jews as well.

The TPPA has been met with opposition from various civil society groups, including the Malay Economic Action Council, which fears that the contentious pact will result in negative economic growth.

Critics also say the investor state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism under the TPPA may threaten Malaysia's sovereignty. ISDS allows a corporate entity to drag a state to a tribunal. – December 10, 2015.

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