

'We joined TPP on our terms'

'NOT COLONIALISM':

There was no foreign interference during policymaking, says Mustapa

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THE government maintains that Malaysia joined the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement on its terms.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said Malaysia did not allow foreign interference in the administration and policymaking process.

He dismissed claims that the TPP was a form of Western colonialism, saying that Malaysia's liberty and sovereignty were protected as the agreement would not lead to the amendment of the constitution.



*International Trade and Industry Minister **Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed** (centre) being greeted by a **Communications and Multimedia Ministry employee** at the ministry's headquarters in Putrajaya yesterday. Behind him is Communications and Multimedia Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak**. Pic by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor*

The country would still be able to amend and draft laws without intervention from foreign powers, he said at a briefing at the Communications and Multimedia Ministry

here yesterday.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had said Malaysia agreed to join TPP on terms it had set.

Mustapa said the terms that were considered before signing the TPP included Bumiputera rights and the powers held by the federal and state governments, such as on land matters.

"Bumiputera policies should be upheld, where they should be given priority in terms of licence and permit issuance.

"The subsidy programmes for Bumiputeras should also be continued without restrictions."

He said Malaysia would reject Western values if they were against religious teachings in the country.

Mustapa briefed some 600 staff at the ministry on the TPP as part of his tour across the country to help the public understand the agreement better.

Asked if the TPP could resolve the current economic challenges faced by the country, including the depreciation of the ringgit, he said: "TPP is not a 'magic lamp' to solve issues overnight."

He said the ringgit and China's economy were affected by the world's economy, with crude oil price playing a major role.