

TPPA not a costless 'hop-on, hop-off' option

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arbitration, even when made by causing public harm. The ISDS will not improve the judiciary's performance and reputation, but will mean new risks and liabilities.

ISDS makes it hard for governments to fulfil their basic obligations, e.g. to protect health and safety, ensure economic development and stability, and safeguard the environment.

If the TPPA is simply a trade deal, there would be less grounds for concern. Unfortunately, its provisions will undermine Malaysian development prospects and the public interest in the longer term.

Many well-intentioned Malaysians opposed to abuses of various kinds, welcome the TPPA, hoping that it will somehow eliminate corruption, improve governance and address other problems in the country. Unfortunately, this is wishful thinking as the TPPA is not simply a costless 'hop-on, hop-off' option.

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