

# Mustapa: We will lose out to others if we reject TPP

**KANGAR:** Malaysia will miss out on opportunities to narrow development gaps if it rejects the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), says International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

He said the pact afforded the possibility of foreign investments of between US\$136 billion (RM581 billion) and US\$239 billion, which would also create 2,000 jobs by next year.

"These investments offer greater business and market opportunities. Malaysia's small market is not enough for businesses to expand in," he said.

"As such, we must receive and accept changes to grow and expand.

"The government believes the TPP will be a stepping stone for Malaysia to soar to greater heights and will directly benefit the people and the country," he said during a state-level briefing on TPP here on Sunday.

Mustapa said Malaysia would lose out on business and investment opportunities if the country chose to

opt out of the TPP. "Singapore and Vietnam, which will ratify the agreement, will enjoy tremendous growth as both countries will draw abundant foreign interest.

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**Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed**  
International trade and industry minister

confusing the people.

"We should not be influenced by assumptions that we (Malaysia) will be controlled by the United States. Many other countries are joining the pact, like Australia, Brunei, Canada, Japan, Singapore and New Zealand, all of whom could determine their own direction, despite being a party to the pact.

"The TPP will not come into force

"This could result in Malaysia being left behind and the development gap between the three countries will widen as the TPP will bring many benefits to countries participating in it, especially in terms of market access and state-of-the-art technology."

He reminded the people to scrutinise and weigh all information on the TPP while rejecting assumptions that were not based on facts but aimed at



**International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed (centre) at a Trans-Pacific Partnership briefing in Kota Baru, Kelantan, on Sunday. Pic by Nik Abdullah Nik Omar**

immediately. We will have six months to evaluate the impact of its implementation and, if it is not favourable, we can opt out of it with-

out any condition."

Mustapa said Malaysia was not being pressured by any party to join the TPP and the government had

considered its impact and ensured that Malaysia's sovereignty, Constitution and state governments were safeguarded. **Bernamea**