

TPP negotiators 'have done a good job'

KUALA LUMPUR: Former minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz has commended the country's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement negotiators, saying that they have done a "good job" in settling the deal.

The former international trade and industries minister said the deal would allow Malaysia to tap new markets and said the matter should not be politicised.

"Our negotiators have done a good job. I was briefed on what they did. What we want to do is find new markets for some of our products, tap into bigger markets such as the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"As a country that wants to be a developed nation by 2020, (it is unnecessary) to quibble over obligations for market openings.

"If you're a developed country, you should be having higher level obligations. You cannot behave like a least developed country and be a developed nation."

Rafidah said this at the "Staying ahead in the competitive world: How Malaysia should align itself with the 21st century" talk at



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Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz
former international trade and industries minister



UCSI University here yesterday.

She said the TPP would not affect the government's right to make policies or change existing policies, adding that the government had done "a good thing" for private sector industries.

"Bottomline is, don't politicise it. Once you politicise everything, even people who know nothing about business want to have their two cents' worth. It could cause turmoil."

She also said with the new market openings, industries and companies

must be prepared to compete with themselves.

Rafidah stressed on the importance of equipping the younger generation with English language skills, and said communicating in English would not make a person less nationalistic.

"We better look at equipping our young, they are the country's assets. How?

"When they have full command of English, that can take them anywhere in the world."