

MALAYSIA'S PROVISION IN TPP-CPTPP: THE CASE OF BUMIPUTERA
ECONOMIC POLICY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this research paper is my own except for quotations and summaries, which have been duly acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the Malaysia's involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) and Comprehensive and Progressive agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPPA) in relation with Malaysia's political situation and policy implementation. The puzzle that motivates this research is the influence of Malaysia's dominant political party on the implementation of *bumiputera* agenda. The *bumiputera* policy on economic regulations, specifically on the reserved amount of quota in the allocation of permits or licenses for business and trade has become one of the challenges in order for Malaysia to ratify the trade agreements.

This paper uses qualitative research method and makes an analytical study whether this challenge would influence the choice and decision made by Malaysia in order to become a full fledged membership of TPP and CPTPP.

The assumption of the study is that the Malaysian government has a strong desire to become part of the trade agreements. The fact that Malaysia will gain a lot of benefits from trade and liberalization of markets as the major factor for the government to join the partnership. Despite the concerns and challenges faced, particularly the issue of *bumiputera* policy, Malaysia under the new government administration is still considering to fully ratify the trade agreement.

After series of negotiation rounds, the study found that Malaysia and 10 other Asia Pacific countries including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam has signed the CPTPP and shows full commitment to ratify the agreement. The Malaysian government however does not fully address the issue of *bumiputera* policy as it is one of the major components that Malaysia need to reform.

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