

# 'No need for special BN panel on NEP'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Prime Minister today dismissed a suggestion that the Barisan Nasional form a panel to study the New Economic Policy (NEP), saying the Cabinet already performs that function.

The Taiping MCA branch made the suggestion last Friday in response to speeches supporting a resolution on the NEP at the Umno general assembly.

"The panel already exists: the Cabinet," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told reporters after opening a seminar for

Members of Parliament at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Other organisations such as chambers of commerce have set up their own committees to study the NEP, its implementation and weaknesses.

Dr Mahathir said it was within their right to do so.

Umno has already decided to set up its panel, whose recommendations would be submitted to the party's Supreme Council for discussion and action.

Dr Mahathir said the panel would be Umno's first step towards gathering information from Bu-

miputerans on what they wanted to see done about the NEP.

"If we don't have the necessary input, we won't know what to do," he said.

Responding to MCA deputy president Datuk Lee Kim Sai's allegation that there had been "deviations" in the implementation of the NEP, Dr Mahathir said: "We will discuss this and put a stop to it if possible."

Datuk Lee, who is also Labour Minister, said yesterday that the post-election analysis carried out by the MCA had shown that such "deviations" had contributed to the party's dismal performance at the polls.

During the two-day seminar, the MPs would be briefed on the NEP and other Government policies, including the Look East policy, Dr Mahathir said.

The briefings will be conducted by Ministers and senior Government officials.

The idea is to enable the MPs to participate effectively in Parliament.

"They will be given adequate information on these policies so that they can take part in the debates on various issues," Dr Mahathir said.

"If we find that the seminar is still inadequate, we will consider holding more."