

U E170 AAE

MAHATHIR-NEP

(EMBARGO) FOR RELEASE AT 10.30PM)

OM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 18 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET UP A CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL TO HELP FORMULATE A NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY WHEN THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP) EXPIRES IN 1990, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TONIGHT.

HALF OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERS WOULD BE MADE UP OF BUMIPUTERAS AND THE OTHER HALF THE NON-BUMIPUTERAS SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ACCUSED OF BEING PARTIAL TO ANY ONE COMMUNITY, HE SAID AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION DINNER IN HOTEL SUBANG MERLIN.

+BOTH SIDES WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY POLITICIANS FROM THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES AND THE OPPOSITION,+ HE SAID.

PRESSURE GROUPS WHICH WERE ALWAYS DISSATISFIED WITH THE NEP WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO SIT ON THE COUNCIL, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE +NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AFTER 1990+, WOULD REVIEW THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NEP AND ITS FAILURES AND FORMULATE A POLICY AND PROGRAMME FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY AFTER 1990. -- MORE

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+WHETHER THE COUNCIL WILL ABIDE BY THE VOICE OF THE MAJORITY OR TO A UNANIMOUS DECISION WILL BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL ITSELF,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IMPLEMENT THE POLICY FORMULATED BY THE COUNCIL AS THE BASIS FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY AFTER 1990.

+THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ASSIST BY PROVIDING A SECRETARIAT AND NECESSARY INFORMATION,+ HE SAID.

+THE ORGANISATIONAL CHART, INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND OTHERS COULD ALSO BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL ITSELF,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE GROUPS WHO SUCCEEDED IN AROUSING ENVY AND HATRED AMONG BUMIPUTERAS AGAINST THE SUCCESSFUL TO THE EXTENT OF CONDEMNING THE NEP AS BENEFITING ONLY A HANDFUL OF THEM.

+WHAT MAKES IT SAD IS THE FACT THAT THE BUMIPUTERAS WHO CONDEMN THE NEP ARE AMONG THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM THE NEP, THOUGH NOT IN TERMS OF EXCESSIVE WEALTH.+

HE SAID THEY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY UNTIL THEY SUCCEEDED IN GETTING HIGH POSTS WITH GOOD SALARIES BECAUSE OF NEP, BUT, HE ADDED, +THEY FORGET AND INSTEAD JOIN OTHER GROUPS WHO CONDEMN THE NEP AS BEING UNFAIR AND ONLY BENEFIT A HANDFUL OF BUMIPUTERAS+, HE SAID. -- MORE

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ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT DID NOT DEPEND ON ANY ONE FACTOR OR ANY ONE GROUP.

+ALL SIDES ARE INVOLVED WITH EACH ONE PLAYING ITS ROLE AND DISCHARGING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES PROFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID IF ONLY THE ADMINISTRATORS WERE EFFICIENT AND ACTIVE AND THE THE PRIVATE SECTOR INEFFICIENT AND INACTIVE, PROGRESS COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED.

SIMILARLY, IF THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ADMINISTRATORS WERE EFFICIENT AND ACTIVE BUT THE WORKERS DID NOT DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES PROPERLY, PROGRESS WOULD ALSO NOT BE ACHIEVED, HE SAID.

+WE SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR OTHER QUARTERS TO BECOME PERFECT BEFORE WE START MAKING EFFORTS. WE SHOULD STRIVE EARLY AS THIS SHOULD SERVE AS A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

+IN FACT, ADMINISTRATORS ARE PACE-SETTERS FOR OTHERS TO EMULATE,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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