

# Council on national economy to be set up

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Government will set up a consultative council, comprising an equal number of Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras, to help formulate an economic policy after 1990.**

Announcing this tonight, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said members of the council will be represented by leaders of political parties in the Government, Opposition parties and pressure groups.

The composition of the body, to be called the Consultative Council on the National Economy after 1990, was decided upon to avoid any accusation of partiality on the part of the Government.

The Prime Minister said this at the annual dinner of the Diplomatic and Administrative Officers Association at the Subang Merlin near here.

He said the Government would also set up a secretariat and prepare the necessary data.

The council will examine the achievements and shortcomings of the New Economic Policy (NEP) and draw up a policy and programme as a basis for the national economy after 1990.

Whether or not the policy will be decided by a

majority or a consensus will be determined by the council.

"The Government promises to implement the policy decided by the council as the basis for the national economic policy after 1990."

Dr Mahathir stressed that the development of the nation did not depend on one factor alone but the involvement of all quarters.

Each, he added, had a role to play and a responsibility to carry out effectively and efficiently.

Dr Mahathir said both the public and private sectors must contribute effectively to ensure that there was progress.

On the economy, the Prime Minister said the people, by putting aside their own interests, had helped the Government overcome the economic slowdown.

Dr Mahathir thanked civil servants for their patience in accepting the Government's reason for not giving them a pay increase during the economic slowdown.

"Without this sacrifice, we will be like other countries which are still not able to revive their economy."

Dr Mahathir said this positive action as well as an encouraging commodity market had enabled the Government to fulfil its promise of revising the salaries of civil servants.

"We are aware that there are still those who are not satisfied with the pay increase. Nevertheless, we must continue to be responsible and not be extravagant," he said.