

PM: We'll base policy on NECC views

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. —
NST - 9 JUN 1989

The Government would use part of the views submitted by the National Economic Consultative Council (NECC) to formulate the post-1990 national economic policy even if NECC members cannot reach a consensus on their recommendations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this was the Government's stand. This was explained to members of the Barisan Nasional supreme council which met this afternoon.

"I have explained to the members that this is the Government's stand," he said at a Press conference after the meeting.

Dr Mahathir said the explanation had made council members have a better understanding of the Government's stand on the NECC and the national economic policy after 1990.

On the withdrawal of Berjasa from the Barisan Nasional which was discussed at today's meeting, Dr Mahathir said the council accepted the party's decision.

He said the party's withdrawal, which was announced on May 28, would not affect the performance of the Barisan Nasional.

"It has no effect on us because during the 1986 general

election, Berjasa decided not to contest and as far as we know, they did not support the Barisan Nasional. On the other hand, we know that some of its members were involved with Pas," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the party's withdrawal had in fact made it easier for the BN as it did not have to take action to expel the party from the coalition.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting also touched on education, development and Government projects, particularly those in Sabah and Sarawak.

Asked whether the meeting discussed a possible Cabinet reshuffle, he said it did not.

But before being queried by reporters any further, Dr Mahathir said: "And to preempt another question ... no, we did not discuss the general election. But we permit the Press to discuss it as much as possible.

"Please say we should be having a general election soon so that our opponents will spend more time and money campaigning."