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SENATE-NECC
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 27 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOME MEMBERS FROM THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (NECC) WILL RESULT IN VIEWS AND A REPORT WHICH LACKED CONSENSUS.

+WITH THE FORMATION OF THE NECC, WE HAD HOPED ALL MEMBERS CAN DISCUSS AND ACHIEVE CONSENSUS BUT WITH THESE WITHDRAWALS, THE NECC AS A +CONSENSUS+ BODY IS NOT A SUCCESS EVEN IF IT MANAGES TO FORMULATE AN ECONOMIC POLICY FOR AFTER 1990,+ HE TOLD SENATOR DAHALAN EMBUN AT THE DEWAN NEGARA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD SENATOR AZMAN ATAR OTHMAN THAT THE THE WITHDRAWAL BY SOME MEMBERS OF NECC CLEARLY SHOWED THEY GAVE GREATER PRIORITY TO THEIR POLITICAL INTEREST TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE WERE AWARE THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN PEOPLE CLEARLY SHOWED THEY DID NOT PLACE PRIORITY ON UNITY AND THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

SENATOR AZMAN ATAR HAD ASKED IF THESE NECC MEMBERS WERE OUT TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE POST-NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND THAT THEY WOULD TURN IT INTO A POLITICAL ISSUE IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION. -- MORE
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REPLYING TO SENATOR SIVALINGAM ARUMUGAM KARUPPIAH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS NO PLANS TO SEGREGATE THE INDIAN COMMUNITY FROM THE OTHER NON-BUMIPUTERA GROUPS IN THE ECONOMIC POLICY.

HE SAID IF SUCH A SEGREGATION WAS MADE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO +SEGREGATE+ OTHER COMMUNITIES AS WELL, MAKING RE-STRUCTURING OF SOCIETY DIFFICULT.

HE TOLD SENATOR V.K.SELLAPAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT DECIDED IF THE COUNCIL'S FINAL REPORT WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT OR MADE PUBLIC THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER ALL VIEWS AND PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE NECC BEFORE THE NEW POLICY FOR AFTER 1990 IS ANNOUNCED,+ HE SAID.

THE FINAL REPORT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE NECC WAS SATISFIED WITH IT, HE SAID. -- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID BASED ON REPORTS, THE NECC HAD REACHED AN ENCOURAGING LEVEL OF PROGRESS BY HAVING HELD 12 PLENARY SESSIONS, ADDING THAT THE 13TH PLENARY SESSION WAS SCHEDULED FOR JAN 17, 18 AND 19 NEXT YEAR.

HE SAID ALL FIVE COMMITTEES IN THE NECC HAD SUBMITTED THEIR REPORTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS. THEY INCLUDED THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY TO RE-STRUCTURE SOCIETY.

DISCUSSIONS ON THE REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES HAD BEEN COMPLETED EXCEPT THAT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, WHICH WOULD CONTINUED TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION.

HE SAID THE NATIONAL UNITY COMMITTEE SET UP TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY HAD COMPLETED ITS REPORT AND THIS WOULD BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE COMING PLENARY SESSION.

THE NECC IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BEGIN DISCUSSING THE COUNCIL'S FULL REPORT AFTER THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
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