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Parliament-NECC

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5⁹⁰ (Bernama) -- The government will study the report of the National Economic Consultative Council (NECC) for ideas that can be accepted for inclusion in the new national economic policy being drafted, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Dewan that although the government was not bound to accept the NECC recommendations because they were not achieved by consensus, there was a possibility that some of the ideas could be accepted.

Replying to three questions on the NECC during question time, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the delay in the NECC report was caused by the attitude of certain sectors and the opposition which put party politics above national interest.

+They tried to disrupt the NECC meetings instead of working for a consensus with sincerity. Because they opposed the views expressed by others in the forum, the NECC's work was delayed+ he said, when replying to questions by Encik Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Kota Melaka), Encik Chian Heng Kai (DAP-Bukit Mertajam) and Encik S.S. Subramaniam (BN-Segamat).

The Prime Minister said the withdrawal of certain groups from the NECC showed that the critics of the New Economic Policy (NEP) themselves were not able to formulate a better economic policy than the one created by the government. -- more

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+They only know how to criticise the policy and not to cooperate to improve it,+ he added.

He said some of those who withdrew from the NECC were from important groups and these people were free to criticise the policy made by the remaining members of the NECC.

This showed that recommendations of the NECC were not ideal because there was no consensus, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the NECC was formed to give the opportunity to all sectors, including the critics of the NEP, to formulate an economic policy for the period after 1990 that could be accepted by all.

He added that if the policy recommended by the remaining members of NECC was implemented by the government, it would suffer the same fate as the NEP and other economic policies formulated by the government.

He said the NEP was criticised by the opposition as a tool to create a few bumiputera entrepreneurs identified by the government.

+There are also those who claim that the NEP had made the government richer, caused the majority of the bumiputeras to become poorer, heightened tension between the communities, caused losses for non-bumiputeras and hampered national development,+ he added. -- more

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the NEP and Malaysia was criticised both locally and overseas as a result of opposition action in confusing the issue by alleging that the NEP was formulated with ill intention.

He said the formulation of a policy, based on socio-economic engineering, to divide the wealth of the nation in an ideal manner was not an easy task.

+The communist and socialist systems, which were formulated for the purpose, have not only failed but also worsened the situation,+ he added.

On the other hand, the NEP proceeded for 20 years and, although its objectives were not fully realised, it had not adversely affected the country's economic, social and political development, he said.

The Prime Minister said even some countries without racial problems could not emulate Malaysia in development.

He said it was the intention of the government to formulate an ideal economic policy to benefit every community to correct the present imbalance.

Replying to Haji Ibrahim Ali (S.46-Pasir Mas), he said although the MCA criticised the role of NECC, it did not withdraw from the forum like the opposition.

To a question from Encik Ahmad Nor (DAP-Bayan Baru), the Prime Minister said if the opposition criticised the NEP, it was the same as opposing it.

-- Bernama

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