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PM CHAIRS FIRST MEETING OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Development (With pix)

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 / (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir
Mohamad today chaired the first meeting of the National Development Council
here.

The meeting, held at the National Operations Room in the Prime Minister's Department, was to discuss and to ensure that the council could carry out its functions effectively.

The council was set up to replace the National Action Council through Directive Number 1 (1991) National Development Policy's (NDP) Implementation Coordination Machinery.

The directive was issued in conjunction with the launching of the Second Outline Perspective Plan and the Sixth Malaysia Plan (SMP) to replace Directive Number 1 (1971) National Action Council.

One of the vital functions of the council is to ensure that the implementation of government policies is in line with the NDP and the SMP.
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It is also to ensure that the strategy and implementation of the government's programmes and projects meet the objectives of the NDP and the SMP and to identify and assess the implementation strategy of programmes and projects under the NDP and the SMP.

Deputy Prime Minister Encik Ghafar Baba and eight other Cabinet ministers are members of the council.

They are Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ling Liong Sik, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Seri Samy Vellu, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik, Works Minister Datuk Leo Moggie, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor.

A National Development Executive Committee was also set up under the council chaired by Chief Secretary to the government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid. The executive committee has seven members.

According to the structure of the council, National Development Executive Committees at ministry level have also been set up and chaired by the respective secretaries-general while State Development Councils, replacing the State Action Council's, are chaired by the Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers. -- more

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However, state-level councils for Sabah and Kelantan are chaired by Federal Development Directors in both states.

At district level, all District Development Councils will be headed by their respective District Officers.

All programmes implemented are coordinated by a secretariat under the Implementation Coordination Unit of the Prime Minister's Department.

The council will convene at **least** 'four times a year or at any time fixed by the Prime Minister while all other committees will meet at least once a month according to necessity.

However, so far the National Development Executive Committee set up to ensure that all directives and decisions of the council are implemented by all other **committees**, has already held two meetings.

Today's meeting was attended by all council members except Datuk Seri Dr Ling. Also present were seven members of the National Development Executive Committee including Auditor-General Tan Sri Ishak Tadin and Finance Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Sheriff Mohamed Kassim. --
Bernama

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