

22 NOV 1997

Ling-NEAC

CHINESE ORGANISATIONS BACK NEAC

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- Three major Chinese organisations in the country today unanimously decided to support the activities of the proposed National Economic Action Council (NEAC) in facing the current economic problems caused by the depreciation of the ringgit and the fall of the stock market.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the three were the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM), the Federation of Chinese Assembly Halls Malaysia (FCAHM) and the MCA.

Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, said they would go all out to assist the government in implementing the steps to be taken by the NEAC to improve the nation's economic outlook.

"The ACCCIM and FCAHM are willing to participate when called upon to contribute in whatever capacity and at whatever level...we are willing to undertake all the belt-tightening measures," he told reporters after a meeting among the three bodies here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir announced the proposed formation of the NEAC after a special Umno Supreme Council meeting on Thursday.

Dr Ling said a decision was made at today's meeting to establish a committee to coordinate efforts to increase local food production.

He said one of the ways to address the current problems was to keep wages low.

"If we are to keep wages low, the cost of food must not go up, which means that the supply must be sufficient," he said.

He said the committee, which would cooperate with the state Agriculture committee, exco members and Members of Parliament, would try to identify suitable areas for food production.

Dr Ling also expressed the hope that such collaboration would result in some firm ideas which would be forwarded to Dr Mahathir and the menteris besar of the various states.

The committee comprises ACCCIM agriculture committee chairman Datuk Lim Fung Chee, FCAHM chairman Datuk Ng Teck Fong and MCA economic bureau chief Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn, who is Deputy Education Minister. -- BERNAMA

MAM JK