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DAP-NEAC

DAP READY TO SIT IN NEAC IF INVITED, SAYS KIT SIANG

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- The DAP is prepared to serve on the proposed National Economic Action Council (NEAC) if invited, its secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said today.

He said Malaysians regardless of political differences must unite to tide the country through the present economic crisis.

" Up to now, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has not clarified the powers, responsibilities and scope of the council," he said.

He said what Dr Mahathir had said of the council after the Umno supreme council and Barisan Nasional supreme council meetings on Thursday and Friday was rather vague and confusing.

" On one hand, he says the NEAC will be given powers by the Cabinet to make decisions pertaining to the national economy and on the other, he says it will function as an advisory body to the government," he said in a statement today.

Lim said there is a need for a full and proper clarification to the legal and constitutional status of the NEAC.

He also called on the ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries to set an individual example of belt-tightening by cancelling all their overseas holiday plans this year and spending their annual leave in the country.

In the past, most cabinet ministers would go overseas, with many congregating in London, during the December holidays, to the extent that sometimes a Cabinet meeting could not be held for lack of quorum, he claimed.

" Let this phenomenon not happen this year with ministers setting the example in adopting a savings culture of reducing expenses. I hope the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday can take such a decision to show Malaysians that ministers can set an example in belt-tightening," he added. -- BERNAMA

AFY TS