

22 NOV 1997

DAP WELCOMES FORMATION OF NEAC

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- The DAP today welcomed the proposed formation of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) and regarded it as an important measure to help overcome the economic crisis.

"DAP welcomes the proposed formation of the NEAC as an important measure to help overcome the economic crisis as the 1998 Budget has failed to arrest the continued plummeting of the ringgit and the stock market," its secretary-general, Lim Kit Siang, said in a statement, here.

Dr Mahathir, who announced the formation of the panel on Thursday, said it would advise the government on measures to overcome the effects on the economy following the fall of the ringgit and stock market.

The council, to be set up next month, may also include those involved in manufacturing, banking finance and exports.

Lim said the NEAC must also be a forum where all views could be heard and thrashed out, particularly views on how to restore investor confidence as well as views on the UEM-Renong deal and government's decision to take over the Bakun hydro-electric dam project from Ekran Bhd.

"It has been said that in nearly every economic crisis, the root cause is political, not economic. Will the NEAC be able to grapple with this root cause of the economic crisis facing Malaysia?," Lim said. -- BERNAMA

WNZ JK