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Parliament-NEAC

DON'T INCLUDE MINISTERS IN NEAC, SAYS NUNGSARI

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- A government backbencher said today cabinet ministers need not be appointed as members of the proposed National Economic Action Council because they will not be able to contribute fresh ideas to overcome the country's economic problems.

Dr Nungsari Ahmad (BN-Balik Pulau) told the Dewan Rakyat that others who have been giving views on economic matters all this while should also be excused for the same reason.

"If the government really seeks genuine views, then appoint those who have not had a chance to present their views on the country's economy," said the former economics lecturer.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, when announcing the proposal to set up the NEAC recently, said ministers in charge of economic-related ministries would be appointed to the council which would be chaired by him.

Nungsari said he hoped the government would not seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as it would affect Malaysia's sovereignty.

"Borrowing from the IMF should be the last resort towards resolving the current slowdown we are facing," he said.

Meanwhile, Yunof Meringking (PBS-Tuaran) wants economists and government officials to provide correct facts and state the possible consequences of the current slowdown to the Cabinet to ensure that the Cabinet took the right decisions.

"If they have given the correct picture but have been ignored by the Cabinet then the responsibility to the country is no longer theirs," he said.

The Dewan sits again tomorrow. -- BERNAMA

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