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NGO-Economy

NGO'S FORM COMMITTEE TO HELP GOVT HANDLE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Nine non-governmental organisations (NGOs) today formed a committee to help the government deal with the current economic slowdown.

Known as Tindakan (Action), the committee includes the Malaysian Youth Council (MYC), Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement (Abim), Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations (Fomca) and the Consumer Association of Penang.

The others are the Malaysian Sociological Research Institute, Centre for Peace Initiatives, National Association of Muslim Students, Young Malaysian Entrepreneurs Association and the Association of Singers, Musicians and Songwriters (Papita).

MYC secretary-general Saifuddin Abdullah said in a statement here that Tindakan supported the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the international community to regulate currency trading.

He said Tindakan urged Asean Finance Ministers to unite in defending the economic interests of this region, and ensure that the International Monetary Fund and other agencies identify the most appropriate mechanism to prevent international currency crisis and speculation from prolonging.

The committee expressed support for the government's efforts to overcome economic problems and hoped that the soon-to-be-set-up National Economic Action Council (NEAC) could take immediate measures to maintain or step up the country's economy.

"We hope that the government will appoint NGO representatives in the council, said Saifuddin.

Tindakan also hoped that the government would continue to be firm in World Trade Organisation negotiations.

It also expressed support for the government's move to reduce imports and promote local goods and services. -- BERNAMA

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