

22 NOV 1997

Koh-SECC

PULAU PINANG GOVT REVIVES ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE PANEL

PULAU PINANG, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- The Pulau Pinang government will revive the now defunct State Economic Consultative Council (SECC) to help draw up development plans in the wake of the present economic problems.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said the SECC would function for a 10-year period between the year 2000 and 2010 in accordance with the development projections of the state government.

Besides the state government, the SECC will comprise representatives from the chambers of commerce and industry, economic institutions and government agencies involved in economic development programmes, he said.

The private sector would be encouraged to play a vital role by undertaking joint studies, participate in discussions and adopt measures to deal with the economic problems and challenges faced by the state, he told a news conference after chairing a meeting with Barisan Nasional (BN) assemblymen here today.

Dr Koh also said two more councils would be placed under the SECC, bringing it to nine the total number of councils in efforts to spur the state's economic growth.

The two councils -- construction chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Shariff Omar and Agro-Industry headed by State Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdullah.

Dr Koh said the tourism council headed by State Tourism, Arts, Culture and Women Affairs committee chairman Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen would activate tourism promotion for the state which was seriously hit by the haze and the current economic slowdown.

He said tourism, the second major contributor to the state's economic growth after the industry sector, would be pursued aggressively to woo foreign tourists to the state.

On the meeting, Dr Koh said the BN assemblymen agreed unanimously for the tabling of a motion of support and confidence in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership in tackling the present economic downturn, he added. -- BERNAMA

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