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DAP to give full co-operation to the NEAC

IPOH, Mon. - The DAP will put aside all political differences and give full co-operation to the National Economic Action Council to ensure the economic problems are overcome.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said in spite of the party's reservations, it would co-operate fully with the NEAC to ensure that the Government, society and people fight and overcome the economic problems as one unit.

"All State DAP committees have been directed to extend the fullest co-operation to the respective NEACs," he said in a statement today.

Lim said the party had strong reservations on whether the NEAC was the proper response to the economic problems and regarding the appointment of Tun Daim Zainuddin as the council's executive director.

The NEAC was set up on Nov 20 and Daim, the Economic Adviser to the Government, was appointed its executive director one month later.

Last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the formation of State-level NEACs to be chaired by the respective Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers.

Meanwhile, Lim also called on the Cabinet to allow Malaysian students who are "financially stranded" overseas as a result of the ringgit depreciation, to apply for loans from the National Higher Education Fund to complete their studies.

Lim's remarks indicate that the DAP had backtracked from its earlier statement urging the Government to give priority to 15 areas to deal with the present economic problems. The focus, Lim said on Jan 1, should be on the restoration of confidence of the people and investors, resolving the problem of information deficit and abandoning plans to establish the NEAC.

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