

24/01/1998

S'gor lauded for NEAC

Kang Siew Li

DEPUTY Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday lauded the Selangor State Government for its prompt action in addressing the prevailing financial and economic setbacks.

The State Government had announced a 31-member state-level National Economic Action Council (NEAC) yesterday.

On January 9, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had announced that each state will have its own NEAC headed by respective menteri besar or chief ministers.

"State governments should emulate the Selangor NEAC which is focusing its activities on agriculture and in working towards a more efficient management," Anwar said at the breaking of fast hosted by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar in Shah Alam.

"However, the measures outlined by Selangor NEAC will not produce results unless there is cooperation from all quarters such as the Umno party members, the private sector and the public in tackling the current economic problems," he said.

On the rescue package offered to Thailand and Indonesia by the International Monetary Fund, he said it had tied both countries' management and policies, but are yet to show positive results.

"And although we (Malaysia) have taken early measures, we still need to take tough measures such as the one announced in December ... hopefully this will help alleviate the problem," he said.

Earlier, Abu Hassan said the state has established its own NEAC which comprises 31 members, including executive council members, senior state officials and Umno state members.

He said the Selangor NEAC will have its first meeting soon to expedite its economic development.

"The problems faced by Selangor is the same in complexity as that currently faced by the country," he said, adding that the State Government has taken various measures to overcome its problems.

"We will also focus on increasing foreign direct investment and domestic activities such as agriculture, tourism, construction of low- and medium-cost houses.

(END)