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National unity panel to draw up millennium plan

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The National Unity Advisory Panel will draw up an action plan to face the challenges of the next millennium.

National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail announced this today after chairing the panel's first meeting for the year at the Prime Minister's Department.

"Although we have unity programmes, national unity should not be taken for granted as it can become critical, especially when sensitive issues arise."

She said the current economic situation had the potential to disrupt unity, especially if people were not patient and understanding.

Earlier, Zaleha presented appointment letters to panel members for the 1998/2000 session.

The members are appointed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Chaired by Zaleha, others on the 49-member panel included Deputy Minister Datuk Peter Tinggom, secretaries-general, department heads, State Government officials, representatives of volunteer organisations, corporate leaders and social activists.

The panel meets at least twice a year and formulates suggestions to tackle social issues.

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