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State NEAC to meet before Raya

THE Selangor National Economic Action Council (NEAC) will try to have its first meeting before Hari Raya to expedite economic development in the state.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the state government is now in the process of selecting the members to sit on the council.

"The meeting will identify problems and ways to overcome them, especially those faced by those in the property development and the small- and medium-scale industries," he told a media conference in Selangor after launching a campaign on "Love Malaysia, Buy Malaysia Goods" yesterday.

Abu Hassan said through the NEAC, the state government will try to formulate methods to assist those having problems as a result of the current economic situation.

"If the state government cannot provide adequate assistance, we will refer the matter to the Federal Government," he said.

Abu Hassan gave an assurance that through the Selangor NEAC, the state government will be able to smoothen and facilitate business activities in Selangor.

He said the council will also come up with ways to promote local products, local holidays and local colleges so as to assist the Federal Government in reducing the current account deficit as well as to reduce pressure on the ringgit.

This, he said will be carried out with various state agencies including the Selangor Consumer Affairs Council.

On Friday, after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced that each state will have its respective NEAC headed by the menteri besar or chief minister.

This follows the Cabinet approval for the setting up of the state-level NEACs at its weekly meeting on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister said the state-level NEACs will act as an information channel to explain to the people the economic situation and to monitor economic activities and problems at grassroots level.

The state NEAC members will also arrange visits to districts and rural areas to assess the impact of the economic problems on the people.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the state NEACs to try to provide the necessary support to facilitate and smoothen business activities in the state, which include reducing red tape and bureaucratic procedures.

On another development, Abu Hassan said he supported any action taken by the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) on corrupt officials of the state government.

"In fact, I encourage the ACA to take necessary action on any parties or members of the state administration in order to produce a transparent administration of the Selangor State Government," he said.

The Menteri Besar was asked to comment on the arrest of six government officials, including five from Selangor, by the ACA recently.

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