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MAPEN II

MAPEN II TO EVALUATE NDP'S ACHIEVEMENTS & FORMULATE NEW POLICY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- The Second National Economic Consultative Council (Mapen II) launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today will evaluate the achievements of the National Development Policy (NDP) and forward recommendations towards formulating a new development policy which will guide the country's development after the year 2000.

According to the Mapen II Secretariat at the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department, the council is an official forum which will allow representatives from different backgrounds and interests to air their views on the achievements of the NDP and endorse the country's New Development Policy after 2000.

The government has prepared terms of reference to Mapen II for it operate and achieve its objectives such as determining factors which had contributed or impeded the performance of the NDP.

Among the areas of focus in evaluating the performance of NDP will be the achievements of the poverty eradication programme, restructuring of human resources, restructuring of shareholding in the corporate sector, the creation of a bumiputera commercial and industrial community and the distribution of income among the various ethnic groups, rural areas and various states.

They include factors which had helped or impeded the full attainment of the NDP objectives and targets as well as the role played by the country's economic growth and the creation of business and job opportunities resulting from it.

In formulating proposals for the new policy after the year 2000, Mapen II will also need to forward recommendations on new approaches capable of replacing the NDP as well as look at strategies and targets on income distribution, restructuring of human resources, shareholding and taking into consideration macroeconomic factors, the main economic sectors and foreign investments.

The recommendations on the new policies after the year 2000 should also take into account the bumiputera commercial and industrial community programme and strategies to create a bigger bumiputera middle class and efforts to narrow the income disparity between the high income earners and lower income earners.

Mapen II has 155 members drawn from political parties, chambers of commerce, professional bodies, industry and business associations, non-governmental organisations, minority groups, youths, women and selected individuals.

The council has to complete its task by August next year. -- BERNAMA  
MK MFJ SHY