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Mustapa to be appointed NEAC adviser

ECONOMIC Adviser to the Finance Ministry Datuk Mustapa Mohamed is expected to be appointed as adviser to the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) next month.

A source said Mustapa will replace NEAC head of secretariat Dr Sulaiman Mahbob who will be named secretary-general of a ministry.

The appointment will not affect Mustapa's position at the Finance Ministry, the source told Business Times yesterday.

Mustapa served as deputy to Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin until he lost his Jeli parliamentary seat in the November 1999 general elections. He is Kelantan Umno's information chief.

Sulaiman, meanwhile, was the executive director of the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research back prior to become the deputy vice-chancellor (development) for Universiti Utara Malaysia in 1997.

The NEAC, chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was set up in January 1998 at the height of the Asian financial crisis as a consultative body to advise the Government on measures to counter the economic challenges.

It assists the Government in policy formulation and implementation of short-and medium-term strategies to strengthen the economic base of the country, and restore public and investor confidence.

The NEAC is headed by Daim who serves as its executive director, and comprises economic ministers as well as representatives from selected organisations and various fields in the private sector.

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