

Experts tapped to NEAC

Nine-member panel a mix of familiar and new faces

By **JAGDEV SINGH SIDHU** and **MAZWIN NIK ANIS**
 newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: On the eve of his 100th day as Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced the members that would comprise the important National Economic Advisory Council (NEAC).

The nine-member panel of experts is a mixture of familiar and new faces to corporate Malaysia.

They are:

- > Universiti Sains Malaysia academic and National Innovation Council member Prof Tan Sri Dzulkipli Abdul Razak;
- > Former Bank Negara chief economic expert Datuk Andrew Sheng;
- > Former Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) deputy director Datuk Dr Zainal Aznam Yusof;
- > ISIS' former research director Datuk Dr Hamzah Kassim, who is also an advisory member to the National Implementation Task Force;
- > Corporate adviser Datuk Nicholas

S. Zefferys, who has 40 years' experience in serving several multinational corporations;

- > ISIS director-general Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin;
- > Senior adviser to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank Dr Yukon Huang, who is also a financial and development expert on the East Asia region and the former Soviet Union;
- > Senior Fellow in the Wolfensohn Centre for Development, Brookings Institution Dr Homi J. Kharas, who is also the World Bank's chief economic expert for the East Asia region;
- > Head of the Economic Department of the London School of Economics Prof Dr Danny Quah, who is also a lecturer at Harvard University and adviser to the Bank of England, World Bank and the Monetary Authority of Singapore; and
- > Universiti Malaya's dean of the economic and administration faculty Prof Dr Norma Mansor who is now NEAC chief secretary.

► See StarBiz

For more reports

NATIONAL ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL (NEAC)

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has appointed nine members to the NEAC



Prof Tan Sri Dzulkipli Abdul Razak
 Universiti Sains Malaysia vice-chancellor



Datuk Andrew Sheng
 Economic council member and former Bank Negara chief economist



Datuk Dr Zainal Aznam Mohd Yusof
 Economic council member and former World Bank consultant



Dr Homi J. Kharas
 World Bank East Asian regional chief economist



Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin
 Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) director-general



Datuk Nicholas S. Zefferys
 Corporate adviser



Prof Dr Danny Quah
 London School of Economics (LSE) economics department head



Dr Yukon Huang
 World Bank and Asian Development Bank senior adviser

Datuk Dr Hamzah Kassim
 National Implementation Task Force adviser

PM appoints 9 foreign, local experts to NEAC

KUALA LUMPUR: Nine experts have been appointed to the National Economic Advisory Council (NEAC) by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Among them are Dr Yukon Huang and Prof Dr Danny Quah. Huang is the senior adviser to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) while Quah is the London School of Economics' head of the economics department.

The others are University Sains Malaysia vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, former Bank Negara chief economist Datuk Seri Andrew Sheng, former World Bank consultant Datuk Dr Zainal Aznam Mohd Yusof, National Implementation Task Force adviser Datuk Dr Hamzah Kassim, corporate adviser Datuk Nicholas S. Zefferys, Institute of Strategic and International Studies director-general Prof Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin and World Bank east asian regional chief economist Dr Homi J. Kharas.

In a statement yesterday, Najib said he had also appointed the Dean of University Malaya's Economics and Administration Faculty, Prof Dr Norma Mansor, as the council's secretary-general.

Najib said the involvement and synergy between local and foreign experts with wide experience from the global perspective is to enable comprehensive views to

Appointments will facilitate a new economic model



Prof Dr Danny Quah is head of the economics department at London School of Economics



Prof Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin heads the Institute of Strategic and International Studies



Prof Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak is Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia

structure an effective new economic model, to overcome challenges to the country's economy in the short and long term.

The NEAC, as a special action council, has the specific role and function to research and identify the steps to be taken to turn Malaysia from a middle income to a high income nation.

The government has begun to initiate specific steps such as to liberalise the services sector and the conditions for Bumiputera equity. These changes are in line with the government's intention for Malaysia to progress and position itself as a business friendly economy and the destination of choice for both domestic and for-

eign investors.

The NEAC will work together with the Economic Planning Unit to implement the steps for the transformation to the new economic model.

Senator Tan Sri Amirsham Abdul Aziz had earlier been appointed the NEAC chairman by Najib. —Bernama