

NRC includes Opposition leaders



By FATIMAH ZAINAL

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Part of the team: (From left above) Nor Mohamed, Prof Adeeba, Wong and Kang are among the many experts and industry captains invited to join the newly minted NRC.

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National Recovery Plan (NRP) coordinating minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz announced the appointments yesterday.

The list also includes Star Media Group adviser Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai, SME Association of Malaysia president Datuk Michael Kang; former Education director-general Datuk Dr Habibah Abdul Rahim, Yayasan Chow Kit co-founder and child rights activist Datuk Dr Hartini Zainuddin, as well as Dr Sivakumar Thuraiarasingam from the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine & Health Sciences.

Besides experts and industry captains, representatives from Opposition parties as well as the Sabah and Sarawak state governments have also been invited to join the NRC.

Tengku Zafrul said their membership is in line with the council's principle of inclusion, collaboration and whole-of-nation approach.

"The NRC has agreed to invite representatives from the Opposition parties of Pakatan Harapan, Parti Warisan Negara, and Parti Pejuang Tanah Air as members.

"At the same time, the NRC has also agreed to invite representatives from the state governments of Sabah and Sarawak to join as members," said Tengku Zafrul, who is also the Finance Minister.

When contacted, Wong said he hoped to convey the wishes and views of the people to the council, which held its first meeting yesterday chaired by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"Like all Malaysians, we only wish the best for our country and our people. This is the time for us to work together to put Malaysia back on track.

"We don't have time anymore. Everyone must help provide ideas, and I hope to play my role, however small it may be," said Wong, who thanked Muhyiddin and Tengku Zafrul for appointing him.

Adding that he was informed of his appointment on Thursday, Wong said it was important that the council heard the sentiments of Malaysians, and as a journalist, he hopes to be the platform to convey constructive ideas and suggestions.

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Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, and National Security director-general Datuk Rodzi Md Saad are also on board.

Tengku Zafrul said the NRC's diverse composition will provide it with a wide perspective, which will beef up the council and the implementation of the NRP, which has a dynamic nature and must be adaptive to the quickly changing situation.

"The NRC hopes that the wide variety of views and expertise could contribute to, among others, empowerment of the health sector, ramping up of vaccination efforts, as well as coordination, implementation and effectiveness of standard operating procedures, other than seamlessly coordinating government support and assistance during the recovery period," he added.

He said the NRC will also convey information to the rakyat in a transparent and easy-to-understand manner via its portal, which will be launched next Monday.

Part of the team: (From left) Nor Mohamed, Prof Adeeba, Wong and Kang are among the many experts and industry captains invited to join the newly minted NRC.

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