

Implementation of 90 per cent of NRC's recommendations less than satisfactory, says Muhyiddin [NSTTV]

PUTRAJAYA: More than 90 per cent of the National Recovery Council's (NRC) recommendations have been approved by the cabinet but the implementation is less than satisfactory.

In his rebuke against apparently languid efforts by the government, NRC chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said his council had put forth 95 recommendations, with 69 related to socio-economic recovery.

He said another nine recommendations were still pending the cabinet's approval.

When asked what had caused the delay in the government rolling out the recommendations, Muhyiddin said he was not in the know and did not wish to point fingers at anyone for the shortcomings.

"NRC is an advisory board which studies and discusses the best solutions to issues related to socio-economy, prices, inflation and how we can overcome it.

"NRC does not have any power to force or push the government or ministry to execute the recommendations that we have given.

"That power lies in the prime minister's hands, not ours," he told reporters after chairing the monthly NRC meeting here today.

He said all of the recommendations that were put into a memorandum for the government had been studied by experts before it was handed over to the cabinet.

Muhyiddin said the cabinet's role did not stop at merely approving the recommendations as they must also be followed through.

"Once these recommendations are approved, there must be a sense of urgency to implement the recommendations, which we are not seeing happen.

"It has to be followed through to make sure that there are improvements to socio-economic growth."

Muhyiddin said while there were some positive signs, though he added that it would not be for long due to the global recession expected next year.

"If immediate action is not taken to address the current condition, the people may suffer even more," he said.

He said the rise in inflation in the country was also due to the serious global and domestic economic situation post-pandemic.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has caused supply chain disruptions globally due to limited ship movements, logistics, and the Russia-Ukraine war has also affected grain supply in the whole of Europe.

"This situation has elicited uncertainty in the global market and caused an increase in the price of consumer goods worldwide.

"As a result, American companies and banks have raised interest rates to eight per cent and this has also caused the inflation rate to reach six per cent," said Muhyiddin.

He said the inflation that was initially caused by supply shortages, which had in turn compounded into financial problems, leading to Bank Negara Malaysia increasing the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) to 2.75 per cent.

"According to data released by the **Department of Statistics Malaysia** on Sept 23, Malaysia's inflation rate had risen to 4.7 per cent in August, compared with 4.4 per cent in July.

"Food inflation recorded the highest increase, at 7.2 per cent compared with July when it was at 6.9 per cent."

Muhyiddin said the government's fiscal position was also expected to be limited next year.

He said the government may not be able to stimulate the economy through further stimulus packages and assistance.

Speaking on the lack of manpower in numerous sectors, he said the intake of foreign workers was far below industry requirements.

He said the NRC had raised this issue in December, after the Human Resources Ministry brought it up, but the intake remained laggard.

"The problem of shortage of foreign workers continues because despite NRC's (repeated) requests for the Human Resources Ministry to present employment status progress reports for foreign workers. We have yet to receive any.

"NRC was just notified that 1,152,276 employee quota applications have been received from all industrial sectors from January until September 2022. Of this number, 467,223 (40.5 per cent) quota was approved but only 76,000 (6.5 per cent) foreign workers were brought into the country as of Sept 12, this year.

"This data shows that the number of foreign workers entering the country is far lower than the actual needs of the industry," he said, adding that NRC had raised this issue since December last year.

Muhyiddin also said NRC's suggestion for banks to provide micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with another loan moratorium or repayment restructuring was first submitted to the cabinet on May 18.

However, the proposal remains in the processing stage.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/09/834897/implementation-90-cent-nrcs-recommendations-less-satisfactory-says>