

KERATAN AKHBAR

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Tok Pa: We've local economists to help us

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GUA MUSANG: Malaysia has the services of several local economists as a support mechanism in managing the country's economic progress, says Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

He said the government also received the services of local experts such as corporate figures and related parties as well as international representatives such as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Business and the United

Nations (UN) to help stabilise the national economy and ensure that the country's economic development plans were on the right track.

"Our country has international agencies such as the World Bank and the UN Office, as well as government agencies, private companies and universities to refer to," he was quoted as saying by Bernama on Saturday.

Mustapa was commenting on former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's proposal that

foreign economists be appointed to stop the ringgit's value from falling should the government be incapable of doing so.

He said there was a sufficient number of economists in the country and yet, the government was still trying to strengthen its development plans despite the economic pressure being felt at the global level.

Mustapa said the economic growth graph was still showing a healthy trend despite challenging

economic conditions.

"There are signs that the economy this year will have no problems in terms of growth.

"The unemployment rate used to be 5.3%, but it is now at 3.7%.

"So, generally, our economy is recovering.

"We are aware that the situation will be challenging.

"God willing, we will continue to interact and hold engagement sessions with all parties," Mustapa said.