

Deputies with nationalist backgrounds from western provinces oppose the implementation of an ethnic-oriented Kurdish initiative.

Left to Right: Halide İncekara, Köksal Toprak, Murat Başeskiçoğlu, Vaht Erdem, Zekai Özcan.

More than 70 Kurdish-origin deputies are disturbed with the slow pace of the Kurdish initiative. They want urgent steps that will re-leave the Southeast socially and economically.

Left to right: Mehmet Emin Ekmen, Abdullah Veli Seyda, Abdurrahman Kurt, Mehmet Halit Demir, Kubbetin Arzu

GÖKSEL BOZKURT
ANKARA - Daily News Parliament Bureau

The ruling government is planning to confront growing doubt and dissatisfaction with the Kurdish initiative among its ranks. Opposing factions are emerging on the leaders' flanks and seeking to influence the initiative to appease their voters.

Interior Minister Beşir Atalay will meet the dissenting party deputies in groups after New Year's Day. The government also plans to send some Kurdish initiative draft laws to Parliament after Jan. 5.

Besides opposition criticism of the ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP's, Kurdish initiative to end the long-standing terror problem, the move has also stirred tension in the party itself. AKP deputies from the west of the country as well as Kurdish-origin deputies have recently begun to voice their concerns over the initiative for different reasons. There are two major groups in the party raising concerns: the deputies mostly elected from western provinces with

The ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, has become subject to increasing criticism from its own members regarding the Kurdish initiative. The nationalist-background deputies warn against separation of the state. Kurdish-origin deputies lament the initiative's slow speed

nationalist backgrounds and the Kurdish-origin deputies who are upset by the initiative's slow pace.

Deputies with nationalist backgrounds oppose implementing an ethnic-oriented Kurdish initiative. This group embraces the supra identity of "Turkish" while objecting to the idea of constitutional reforms on citizenship specific for the Kurdish population. But they also believe that delaying solving the problem harms the party. Some deputies, such as Ankara deputy Zekai Özcan, have gone so far as to already publicly voice their criticism that the move remains insufficient to solve the Kurdish issue.

The nationalist-background

deputies also criticize the Kurdish-origin deputies for not clearly announcing their opposition to separation of the state and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK.

"The solution can't be accomplished with an emphasis on ethnicity. The course of the initiative is harming the unitary structure of the country. The move is perceived as a process that paves the way for a different nation," deputy Özcan told the Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review. "It has created the wrong impression for the public. People are now beginning to question the ethnic identity of their own neighbors."

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Next AKP 'initiative' to be staged within party

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Among those who are bothered by the Kurdish move are Ankara deputy Zekai Özcan, Kırıkkale deputy Vahit Erdem, İstanbul deputy Alattin Büyükkaya, Adana deputy Ali Küçükaydın, Afyon deputy Ahmet Koca, Aksaray deputy Ruhi Açıkgöz, Antalya deputy Sadık Badak, Aydın deputy Atilla Koç, Balıkesir deputy Ali Osman Sali, Bilecik deputy Fahrettin Poyraz, Eskişehir deputy Emin Nedim Öztürk, İstanbul deputy Halide İncekara, Kahramanmaraş deputy Avni Doğan, Konya deputy Hasan Angı, Konya deputy Harun Tüfekçi, Kütahya deputy Hasan Fehmi Kinay, Mersin deputy Ali Er,

Nevşehir deputy Ritvan Köybaşı, Osmaniye deputy Nuri Mehmet Kastal, Trabzon deputy Mustafa Cumhuri, Zonguldak deputy Köksal Toptan and İstanbul deputy Murat Başesgioğlu.

Over 70 Kurdish-origin deputies, on the other hand, are upset by the slow pace of the initiative. They want urgent steps that will relieve Southeast Anatolia from social and economic suffering. Diyarbakır deputy Abdurrahman Kurt, Batman deputy Mehmet Emin Ekmen, Şırnak deputy Abdullah Veli Seyda, Diyarbakır deputy Kudbettin Arzu and Mardin deputy Mehmet Halit Demir are among the Kurdish-origin deputies who have raised concerns on the issue.