

CNS5143

U GE 12-01 00169 EA460

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Mahathir-Daim ''''

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12<sup>g</sup> (Bernama) <sup>(P)</sup> -- Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin asked to resign as the Finance Minister because he feels he has accomplished his task of reviving the country's financial position, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that Datuk Paduka Daim, in a personal letter to him, had referred to his (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's) undertaking to appoint him minister only to revive and restructure the nation's financial position.

+When I appointed him, the country's financial position as we all know was very bad with so many debts,+ he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council at Menara Datuk Onn, Putra World Trade Centre, here.

+But after he assumed the post, he restructured and nurtured the financial position to the current healthy level.

+Therefore, he says he has completed his task, and that I should release him,+ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said. -- more

♥12/01/15-37MST

CNS5155

U GE 12-01 00204 EA461

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Mahathir-Daim 2 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said he has not yet made a decision on the request by Datuk Paduka Daim to resign and has not discussed the matter with the minister who has just returned from overseas. He had been on leave.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this when asked whether he would reshuffle the Cabinet following Datuk Paduka Daim's intention to resign and the patching up of differences between MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu and former deputy president Datuk S.Subramaniam.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir confirmed that he had received the names of the persons the MIC had proposed for deputy minister but said he would only make the announcement after taking a decision (on the appointments).

+I am very happy that an understanding has been reached between the former MIC deputy president (Datuk Subramaniam) and MIC president (Datuk Seri Samy Vellu), and this augurs well for the future of the MIC,+ he said.

Asked whether Datuk Subramaniam can be appointed a senator when he is said to have held the post for two terms before, the Prime Minister said the matter would be looked into. -- more

♥12/01/15-56MST

CNS5164

U GE 12-01 00163 EA462

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Mahathir-Daim 3 Kuala Lumpur

+I do not know whether he served the two terms prior to or after we made the decision that a person can serve only two terms.

+If it was prior to the decision, he can still (be appointed senator) ... I will look at the legal aspects, whether it can or cannot be done,+ he said.

On the Supreme Council meeting, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said discussions touched on domestic politics such as the situation in Kelantan and Sabah and matters raised at the party's recent general assembly.

He said the committee chaired by Umno deputy president Encik Ghafar Baba to study the resolution on the constitutional monarchy debated at the assembly had made several recommendations.

These recommendations would be studied by an Umno executive committee comprising the president, deputy president, vice-presidents, secretary-general and several other persons, he said. -- more

♥12/01/16-11MST

NS5173

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Mahathir-Daim 4 Kuala Lumpur

On a suggestion that the government introduce national service for youths, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government was still in the process of determining the form of national service.

+It will definitely not be national service to serve in the armed forces ... it may be in the form of a labour corps ... but the form has not been determined yet,+ he said.

The suggestion for national service was made by a delegate at the recent Umno general assembly because he felt that it can help develop love for the country and mould a united generation of youths. -- Bernama

12/01/16-23MST