

Mahathir-Daim

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15<sup>91</sup> (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he has not yet made any decision about Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin's desire to resign as Finance Minister.

During his meeting with the Finance Minister at his office today afternoon, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he only listened to what Datuk Paduka Daim had to say about his intention to quit the Cabinet post.

+I didn't give him any answer,+ he told reporters at Parliament House this evening.

As such Datuk Paduka Daim is still Finance Minister, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he could not say when he would make the decision.-- more

♥15/01/18-48MST

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Datuk Paduka Daim reiterated this morning that he was serious in wanting to give up the post but would reconsider if asked to do so by the Prime Minister. He has been Finance Minister since July 1984.

He said one reason for his wanting to leave the Cabinet was the agreement he had with the Prime Minister that he would serve until the country's economy had recovered.

Speaking to reporters after opening the International Savings Banks Institute Advisory Committee meeting, Datuk Paduka Daim said he also wished to resign as Umno treasurer if this was agreeable to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is party president.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that at their meeting today Datuk Paduka Daim did not mention about wanting to relinquish the Umno treasurer post.

The Prime Minister said the question of appointing Datuk Paduka Daim's successor from among other Cabinet members or someone outside the Cabinet, did not arise.

This was because he had not yet made any decision on Datuk Paduka Daim's intention to quit the Cabinet post.-- more

♥15/01/19-09MST

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On the appointment of a deputy minister from the MIC, the Prime Minister said this would be done as soon as possible.

At a news conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting last Saturday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir confirmed that he had received a list of MIC candidates for the deputy minister post.-- Bernama

♥15/01/19-14MST