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Daim - resignation

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15, (Bernama) -- Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin said today he also intends to give up his post as Umno treasurer.

He, however, said that so far he had only informed the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, of his intention to resign from the Cabinet.

+If possible, I would like to retire from all posts except my position as Member of Parliament for Merbok,+ he told reporters after opening the Sixth Meeting of the International Savings Banks Institute Advisory Committee here.

The Minister said that he had been working for far too long, adding that he had promised the Prime Minister to serve until the nation's economy recovered.

+I'm satisfied with my contribution towards the nation's economic expansion so far,+ he added. -- more

♥15/01/12-30MST

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Datuk Paduka Daim was a successful businessman before joining the Cabinet as Finance Minister on July 14, 1984. His intention to resign from the Cabinet received wide coverage in the press since last week.

When asked if he would reconsider his intention to resign from the Government, he said he would think about it after hearing the views of the Prime Minister.

+However, I have yet to make an appointment to see him,+ he said.

On his intention to resign from the party post (treasurer), Datuk Paduka Daim said he would discuss the matter with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President.

Asked whether tomorrow's Cabinet meeting would be his last, the Minister said :+I'm not in a hurry (to quit the Cabinet).+ -- more

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Asked what he would do after resigning from the government, he jokingly said: +I just want to sleep.+

+It's quite some time that I haven't had a good sleep,+ he said, adding that it was not an easy thing to prepare and finalise seven national budgets.

He said he had no intention to break the record of eight budgets by former Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Datuk Paduka Daim also dismissed speculation that he would be appointed chairman of the Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB). -- Bernama

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