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Mahathir - Daim

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Former Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin will be given a ministerial level post and represent Malaysia in the proposed economic growth triangle comprising the northern states of Peninsular Malaysia, South Thailand and North Sumatra.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Tun Daim with his ministerial level status would discharge specific duties while representing Malaysia in the economic growth triangle.

Such ministerial level appointment was not something new as others had also been given similar status, he told reporters after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting here.

Tun Daim also represented the Federal Government in the Langkawi Development Board (Lada) and the Labuan Development Authority.

Apart from Tun Daim, Malaysia's special envoy to the United Nations Datuk Musa Hitam and the ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Datuk Mustapha Mohamad also had ministerial level status. -- more

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Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat later told reporters that the development co-operation envisaged in the north was similar to the economic growth triangle involving Singapore, Johor and Batam, Indonesia.

He said Tun Daim would become the Chairman of a body which would be set up to represent Malaysia in the joint co-operation set-up.

Datuk Mohamed, who is Umno Secretary-General, said the ministerial level position would empower Tun Daim to make decisions on behalf of the Government of Malaysia and he would have official status when negotiating with Thailand and Indonesia.

He said the body to be headed by Tun Daim would be formed later. --
Bernama

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