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Daim makes his mark in business, politics

THE newly-appointed First Finance Minister Tun Abdul Daim Zainuddin has had a long and successful career as a politician and businessman. Born on April 29 1938, Daim's formal education started in Seberang Perak, Alor Star. He continued his secondary education at the Sultan Abdul Hamid College in Kedah.

He was a teacher until 1957 when he decided to study law in London. He went to Lincoln's Inn of London in 1959 and graduated as a barrister-at-law.

Coming back to Malaysia the same year, he joined the Legal and Judicial Service and served as a magistrate in Johor and as deputy public prosecutor in Perak.

In 1965 Daim decided to join a private legal practice, Allen & Gledhill. He later left to be a partner in his own firm, Daim & Gamani.

After six years in the legal fraternity, Daim went into the property industry in 1971 as a developer of housing estates which included Taman Maluri and Taman Bukit Maluri.

In 1977 he pursued further education in the US, this time doing his postgraduate studies in urban planning and development at the University of Berkeley, California, for two years.

Daim then established Syarikat Peremba Bhd in 1979 and became its chairman.

In the same year he was also appointed chairman of Rakyat First Merchant Bankers, as well as a director in the Urban Development Authority.

Daim was a Senator in Parliament in 1980, but resigned in 1982 to contest in the general elections in Kuala Muda, Kedah.

In 1984 he was appointed as the Finance Minister, where he helped to steer Malaysia out of a recession in the 1980s. However, he decided to step down as Finance Minister in March 1991.

Nevertheless, he continues to hold the position of treasurer for the United Malays National Organisation (Umno) until today. He had accepted the position in July 1984.

In April 1993 Daim was appointed as the Economic Adviser to the Malaysian Government.

On June 24 1998 Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad once again called Daim back to the Cabinet, appointing him as the Special Functions Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

Daim is married to Toh Puan Mahani Idris and has three children.

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