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Explain project delays (HL)

Sharanjit Singh

SUNGAI PETANI, Sat. - District officers attending their national conference to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday will have to explain delays for projects under them, First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin said today.

He added the Government was also in the final stages of streamlining the tender process for the award of contracts in a move to ensure speedy implementation of projects.

Daim said other measures that would be introduced to speed up work on new projects included doing away with old procedures in the planning, implementation and disbursement of awards for contracts.

On the district officers, Daim said the Government wanted feedback from them to help overcome the long-standing problem of projects not being implemented fast enough.

"The feedback will be useful for us to work out a solution to help overcome the problem," he said.

Daim was speaking to reporters after the opening of the Merbok Umno division meeting by Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

The two-day National District Officers Conference 1999 is organised by the Prime Minister's Department in Bangi, Selangor.

Daim, who is also the National Economic Action Council executive director, is expected to deliver a paper at the conference.

Daim's paper will be on the Government's efforts to revitalise the economy. He said delays in the implementation of projects could jeopardise economic recovery.

Earlier, in his speech during a meet-the-people function at Kampung Masjid, Taman Bandar Baru in Sungai Lalang, Daim said there were some people in the country who belittled the Government's efforts in revitalising the economy.

He said they continued criticising the Government despite signs of the economy improving.

"Even foreigners who criticised the Government previously are now acknowledging the steps we took are showing positive results.

"However, some of our own people fail to acknowledge this and continue criticising us," he said, adding the people should be united in helping the Government revive the economy.

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