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Daim: It's not for the market to determine when I retire

UMNO treasurer Tun Daim Zainuddin, who is also Finance Minister, urged delegates not to listen to talk raging among stock market players that he was quitting the Government.

The market talk, he said, was the work of the tukang karut (teller of fictitious stories in a dikir barat performance) of the IT era who "copied the culture of the West".

"One day, we all have to retire," he said in replying to points raised by delegates. "But this is not for the market to determine."

"We know the influence of market talk. In the West, all is decided by the market. We do not want to be the tool of the market, and follow the West."

Daim was alluding to reports of a rift between him and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The reports, apparently started by the foreign Press, followed the appointment of Bank Negara Malaysia Adviser Datuk Nor Mohamed Yakcop as the Prime Minister's special adviser.

Dr Mahathir had on Tuesday dismissed such talk.

"The foreign Press is elated with market talk," Daim said. "I quietly do my job but my name is often mentioned, about quitting, about a rift (nak berhentilah, riftlah.)"

"I like to stress here that I do not care about all this. I hope Umno members will also ignore the tukang karut."

Daim said he just wanted to carry on with his work to the best of his ability.

"I will continue to work hard for the beloved country, Umno and the Malay race. Of course, one day we all have to retire but this is not for the market to determine."

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