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Abdullah-Daim

DAIM WORKS WELL WITH DR MAHATHIR, SAYS ABDULLAH BADAWI

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today he believes that Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin works well with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and there is no indication that they are not on good terms.

"I did not detect at any time or any moment that either of them showed body sign...the way they speak, that would interpret that they are not comfortable with each other," he said.

"There was no indication at all... I don't believe that anything bad has happened between the two," he said in an exclusive interview with CNBC News.

Asked about the rumoured differences between the prime minister and Daim, he said he believed that Daim had been very loyal to Dr Mahathir.

"He (Daim) works well with the PM. I think the two men understood each other very well. They may have some differences of opinion in certain things but the most important thing is that when a decision is made, both of them are fully behind the decision made," he said.

Replying to a question, Abdullah said Daim had said before that he would want to step down as Finance Minister.

"He has said it in the very beginning. He (Daim) told me, 'I don't think I want to stay long...But I have to come back. PM wants me to come back,'" Abdullah said.

He was asked to comment on Daim's denial in a news conference with the local media that there were rifts between Daim and Dr Mahathir and that Daim had made it clear that he wanted to step down.

To another question, Abdullah said he would not want to further expand speculation on the relationship between Dr Mahathir and Daim.

On Daim's comment that he, Abdullah, was the second most powerful man in Malaysia, Abdullah said: "I do not know. I do not read about being the most powerful (or) not being most powerful...but I do have a lot of work to do."

When asked on foreign investment in Malaysia, Abdullah said their investments in Malaysia remained an important contribution towards the growth of the economy.

-- BERNAMA

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