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Dr M dismisses speculation of rift with Daim

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has again dismissed reports of differences between him and Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin.

The Prime Minister said they might not see eye-to-eye on some matters but would usually reach a consensus at the end.

"They have been saying that for a long time. I am going to admit that we don't see eye-to-eye always but in the end, we will reach some agreement and it has worked out fine for this country.

"Of course, he (Daim) cannot agree with all the things I want to do and I cannot agree with all the things he wants to do but we reach a consensus," Dr Mahathir told a Press conference after opening the MIC general assembly.

He was responding to a question on foreign reports alleging differences between the two leaders.

To another question on the possibility of Daim being removed as Umno treasurer, as claimed by one report, he said it was something new.

"That is something new. The Press always knows better. Sometimes they think for me. Before I could think, they think."

Referring to a report of alleged difference of opinion between the two over the appointment of Datuk Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz as the new Bank Negara governor, Dr Mahathir said there were several candidates for the post.

They included candidates recommended by Daim, he added.

"I had a frank discussion with him on who should be the most suitable and he agreed," he said.

On fluctuations in the stock market, he said he did not understand the reason behind it.

"The market is something which I don't understand. And I don't put in one sen in the market. I don't pretend to understand it and I will not learn to understand it. Sometimes they push it up and sometimes down."

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