

Daim: Still too early for me to decide on position in Cabinet

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TUN Daim Zainuddin remains non-committal about his position in the Cabinet, saying that it is too early for him to decide whether to quit or remain as Finance Minister.

"It is too early to decide . . . I am still resting," he told reporters after delivering a keynote address at the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering's fourth annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Asked what his decision will depend on, Daim said: "It will depend on me."

He refused to say whether he is extending his two-month leave. "I do not know yet. I better go and do my work now," he said.

On whether he will be attending the Umno general assembly on June 20, he said: "That is a long time (to decide)."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced last month that Daim was taking two months' leave, which sparked rumours that the Finance Minister would be leaving the Cabinet.

Dr Mahathir later stressed that Daim was not resigning and neither did he express any intention of retiring.

Daim still goes to his office to go through documents and letters, and continues to attend official engagements.

However, Daim is not attending Cabinet meetings during his leave. Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, previously a deputy finance minister, is representing Daim in the Cabinet. — *By Eirmalasare Bani*