

Daim's resignation-a big loss to the nation, says Nazri

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SUNGAI PEETANJIT Tun Daim Zainuddin, who resigned as Finance Minister on Friday, is believed to have met several government officers and Umno leaders over lunch at a hotel here yesterday.

Sources said Daim, 63, spent about an hour with them.

He was also said to have made a brief visit to his Merbok parliamentary constituency before leaving for Kuala Lumpur in the afternoon.

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Finance Minister Datuk Musa Aman said Daim's decision to resign as Finance Minister should be respected.

Musa, who is also Sabah Umno treasurer, said the state hoped that whoever was appointed the next Finance Minister would continue Daim's good work.

He added that Sabah also hoped Daim's successor would continue to assist the state in its development programmes.

In Langkawi, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said that Daim's resigna-

tion was a big loss to the nation.

Nazri, who was acting Finance Minister when Daim went on two months' leave which ended on May 31, believed that Daim had resigned to keep his earlier promise to hold the post temporarily to help revive the economy.

He said the question of him succeeding Daim did not arise because he was only standing in for Daim in the Cabinet in routine work.

He said there were many eligible candidates and it was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's prerogative to make the appointment.

In Kuala Lumpur, Deputy Rural Development Minister Datuk G. Palanivel said Daim's resignation would not weaken the country's economic and financial system.

The economic foundation of Malaysia was not so weak that it would fall just because a politician left the Cabinet, he added.

"He (Daim) came in during the economic crisis just to res-

cue the country and now finds that he wants more time for other things in life," Palanivel said.

In Beruas, Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam also described Daim's resignation as a great loss as he had helped re-shape Malaysia's economy.

"Tun Daim is a great listener.

"While recognising his right to resign, Cuepacs had written to the Prime Minister on two occasions requesting that Tun Daim continues being with the Government," he said.

Siva Subramaniam added that Cuepacs leaders had also met Daim on several occasions requesting him to continue serving the nation.

He said Daim's resignation was surely not due to the annuity scheme problem or the MAS shares.

He added that the new Finance Minister should ensure that all work left behind by Daim was completed and that he should spend time with the public.