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Daim-Leave

DAIM NEEDS LEAVE TO CLEAR FILES

SUNGAI PETANI, April 26 (Bernama) -- Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin said today that he has taken two months' leave to spend more time to clear files on development projects.

Daim said he had asked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to give him time to concentrate on clearing files on his desk.

Development projects on the ground would not move if these files were not cleared, he told reporters when asked to elaborate on his reason for taking leave.

"I need to ensure that economic activities continue to move in the midst of a sluggish economy," he said after attending a "Jasamu Dikenang" ceremony organised by the Merbok Umno Division here in conjunction with Umno's 55th anniversary.

Daim said if he did not take leave he would have to attend many meetings and that would give him little time to go through files.

"Taking leave is one way I can pay more attention to files on development. If I just skip Cabinet meetings, that would be unfair...that is why I am sacrificing my leave to go to work," he said.

Asked on speculations on his leave, Daim said the people should not believe in rumours.

"It is best to ignore such speculations. If we reply, they will say it is correct and the speculation will go on," he said.

Asked on the opposition's criticism of him for taking leave, Daim said: "I'm not answerable to them."

The opposition has criticised Daim for being allegedly irresponsible by taking leave at a time when the economy is showing signs of slowing down.

-- BERNAMA

MZM YBY