

06/06/2001

Daim an outstanding Finance Minister, says Chan

MIRI, Tues. - Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan described Tun Daim Zainuddin as an outstanding Finance Minister but added that his recent resignation from the Government will not weaken the country's economic and political future.

"(During Daim's tenure) he has strengthened the country's financial institutions. His resignation, however, will not adversely affect the economy," he said here last night.

Chan paid tribute to Daim, especially on the latter's achievement in restoring the country's economy which was devastated by the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

"It is without doubt that he has restored the economy and brought it back on track after the crisis," he said in reference to Daim's achievement in restoring the economy after he was brought back into the cabinet in 1999.

Chan said he does not know why Daim decided to quit the Government but indicated that the latter might feel he has completed his task.

"He has set up a good financial system and policies for this country (after the crisis) ... as long as we follow them, we should be all right," he said.

Chan also added that the State was confident that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would find an able successor.

Daim, 63, resigned last Friday as Finance Minister, following a two-month leave of absence. He did not give any reason for his resignation.

His resignation was announced by Dr Mahathir last Saturday.

(END)