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Daim-Resignation (Reaction)

DAIM'S CABINET COLLEAGUES, POLITICIANS VALUE HIS SERVICES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Bernama) -- Cabinet Ministers and politicians said they valued and appreciated the services of Tun Daim Zainuddin whose resignation as Finance Minister was announced by the Prime Minister today.

They said he had contributed in no small measure to the development of the Malaysian economy.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he had seen for himself Daim's contributions towards overcoming the economic recession in 1986 and the more recent economic slowdown.

The measures he took and the help he offered to the Prime Minister in setting up the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) had placed the Malaysian economy on a stronger footing, he told Bernama when contacted.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today disclosed that he had accepted Daim's resignation which came into effect yesterday.

The Prime Minister's confirmation of Daim's resignation has nailed mounting speculation about the Finance Minister's future in the Government since he went on two months' leave on April 1.

"We hope Tun Daim can continue serving Umno and the country," said Najib who is Umno Vice President.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu described Daim's decision to leave office as a loss to the nation.

"I feel saddened by his resignation ... he is a very capable Finance Minister...he knows A to Z of the Malaysian economy and has given his very best to the nation...his resignation is a loss to the country," he said when contacted.

Tun Daim knew the country's economy "like the back of his hand" and helped save it during testing times, Samy Vellu said.

In thanking Daim for his help and services, Samy Vellu who is the MIC President said, "Tun Daim is a people's man...he has always taken into consideration the feelings of the people before announcing any policy decision."

Umno Vice-President Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said the country would miss the services of a highly capable Finance Minister and an able economist.

"When I was the Selangor Menteri Besar in the 1980s, Tun Daim gave much help in developing the state's economy," he said when contacted.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) President Zainal Rampak said the workers movement wished to express its regret over Daim's resignation at a time when the economy was sluggish.

"I am confident that the Prime Minister will find a high calibre replacement to enable smooth economic recovery," he said.

Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M.Kayveas said Daim's resignation was a loss to the nation.

"We are shocked by the news...his departure from the cabinet is a loss ...we can only wish him the best," he said when contacted today.

"Daim is the unsung hero who saved the country from further economic turmoil during the regional economic crisis."

Kayveas, who is Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister said, "Daim is also close to the people and understands their woes when formulating economic policies which directly affect the rakyat."

PAS President Datuk Fadzil Noor said Daim's resignation did not come as a surprise to him "for even during his two-month leave he was in his office

clearing his files."

Puteri Umno Protem head Azalina Othman said Daim's resignation was a big loss.

"Puteri Umno wishes to express its thanks to the Tun for his views and advice and we hope the Tun will continue to make available his views," she said.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Ali Rustam said he was shocked by the resignation.

"We will miss the services of an able Finance Minister," he said when contacted.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim said Daim's decision to resign should be respected.

"It is his wish but it is appropriate to record the nation's highest appreciation for his contributions towards national finance," he said when contacted by Bernama.

Dr Rais was confident that Daim would continue to serve the nation even after leaving the Cabinet.

In ALOR SETAR, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said Daim had contributed much to the development of the state as Finance Minister.

He said Daim as leader from Kedah understood and supported the needs of the state and government. Tun Daim is the MP for Merbok.

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