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Daim-Loss

DAIM'S RESIGNATION A BIG LOSS TO THE NATION

LANGKAWI, June 3 (Bernama) -- Tun Daim Zainuddin's resignation as Finance Minister is a big loss to the nation, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said today.

Nasri, 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 country's economy.

"He has already restored the economy and his intention to step down is his right," he told reporters after opening "The Lighthouse Restaurant" in Pantai Tengah here.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Daim had resigned effective Friday but no reasons were given in his resignation letter.

Nazri said he was saddened by Daim's decision because in his brief tenure in the Cabinet he had learnt a lot from Daim who was an expert in economic matters.

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 for the post and it was Dr Mahathir's prerogative to make the appointment.

Meanwhile, 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 told reporters after attending prayers at the Sri Raja Rajeswary Temple.

"He (Daim) came in during the economic crisis just to rescue the country and now finds that he wants more time for other things in life," Palanivel said.

He also said the right candidate would come along and Dr Mahathir would know what to do.

-- BERNAMA

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