

19 JUN 2001

Mahathir-Daim

DR MAHATHIR BRUSHES ASIDE RUMOURS ON DAIM

By: Siti Hawa Othman

KUALA LUMPUR, JUN 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today brushed aside rumours and allegations levelled against Tun Daim Zainuddin, saying that there was no issue involving the former finance minister.

"There is no investigation. Maybe they have asked him, I don't know," Dr Mahathir said without elaborating.

He added, "...because I am now Minister of Finance...I want to know more details of certain things. I don't know whether this is the reason why anybody should ask him anything. But he saw me yesterday, there is no problem," Dr Mahathir told reporters after UMNO's pre-council meeting here.

The Prime Minister also said he had met Daim yesterday and once before that.

He maintained that both he and Daim "did not fight each other" and were "not at war with each other".

Before this, Dr Mahathir said Daim had come to see him to say that he was going ahead with his resignation and would hand over all accounts of UMNO since he was no longer the party's treasurer.

Yesterday, he said Daim came to see him at Putrajaya to discuss and settle certain matters.

Daim, he said, even managed to elude the media during his visit.

The Prime Minister said since he was now Finance Minister as well, he wanted "to know some details".

"Yesterday, he (Daim) said there are certain details he had not given me. So he came, brought all the files, gave them to me and handed everything to me," he added.

As for Daim not attending the UMNO General Assembly this week, Dr Mahathir said it was his right if he did not want to attend the meeting because he was no longer UMNO Treasurer eventhough he was still a party member.

On the delay in getting a new Finance Minister, Dr Mahathir said he was still finding the right candidate and if there was none available now, he could still handle the job.

Dr Mahathir said he was used to working very hard and this time it was no longer "working 24 hours a day but 48 hours."

-- BERNAMA

SHO SHY AAM