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From humble beginnings to top post in Government

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Tun Daim Zainuddin was born on April 29, 1938, in Seberang Perak, Alor Star.

After completing his secondary education at St Xavier's Institution, Penang, Daim entered the teaching profession until he left for Lincoln's Inn in London to study law in 1957.

Upon graduating as a barrister-at-law in 1959, he returned home to join the Legal and Judicial Service in Johor and Perak before joining a private legal practice, Allen & Gledhill, in 1965. He later left to be a partner in his own firm, Daim & Gamani.

After six years in the legal fraternity he went into the property industry as a housing developer of projects which included Taman Maluri and Taman Bukit Maluri in Kuala Lumpur.

He pursued his post-graduate studies in urban planning and development at the University of Berkeley, California in 1977.

In 1979 Daim founded Syarikat Peremba Bhd. He was appointed as chairman of Rakyat First Merchant Bankers, as well as a director in the Urban Development Authority.

He was appointed Senator in 1980, but resigned in 1982 to contest in the general election in Kuala Muda, Kedah, and in 1986, was elected the Member of Parliament for Merbok, a seat he has held since.

Daim was appointed Finance Minister in 1984, where he was instrumental in steering Malaysia out of a recession in the 80s. He held the post for seven years before stepping down in 1991.

In April 1993 Daim was appointed as the Economic Adviser to the Government.

On June 24, 1998 Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad once again called Daim back to the Cabinet, appointing him as the Special Functions Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

He was reappointed as Finance Minister in January 1999 and was made the executive director of the National Economic Action Council.

He is also the chairman of the Langkawi Development Authority.

A successful corporate figure, Daim has been chairman of several companies including Sistem Television Malaysia Sdn Bhd (TV3).

The previous Finance Ministers were Tun Hau-Shaik Lee (1957-1959), Tun Tan Siew Sin (1959-1969 and 1970-1974), Tun Abdul Razak Hussein (1969-1970), Tun Hussein Onn (1974-1976), Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (1976-1984), Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (1991-1998) and Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (1998-1999).

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