

23 APR 2001

DAIM-LEAVE

I JUST WANT TO TAKE A BREAK, SAYS DAIM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 (Bernama) -- Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin said here today that he took two-month leave because he just wanted to take a break.

"Am I not entitle to it?" he said when asked why he was taking leave at this point of time.

Daim was speaking to reporters after the tabling of the Eighth Malaysia Plan (8MP) by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Parliament here today.

On April 19, Dr Mahathir confirmed that Daim was taking a two-month leave.

He had said that Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz would represent Daim in the cabinet.

To a question whether his leave is a prelude to him leaving the government, Daim just said: "I'm on leave."

Daim was also asked whether his trip to the US next month would involve a roadshow to raise bonds.

To this, he said that he would be in the US next month to attend the Asian Development Bank (ADB) annual meeting in Honolulu.

At the meeting, Asean and three regional economic powerhouse, Japan, South Korea and China are expected to finalise the framework on Bilateral Swap Arrangement also known as the Chiangmai Initiatives. -- BERNAMA

MOT FR