

# Sabah Umno deputy head resigns

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Sabah Affairs Minister Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun today submitted his resignation as deputy chairman of Sabah Umno liaison committee effective from yesterday.

The letter addressed to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was handed to the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, Datuk Abdul Aziz Ismail, at his office at 12.20 pm.

Special Officer to former chairman of Sabah Umno liaison committee Abdul Rahman Yunus, who handed over the letter, said Tun Mustapha only resigned from his party post.

Mustapha, who is recuperating at the Subang Medical Centre, indicated his intention to resign from the Cabinet and as Deputy Chairman of Sabah Umno on Oct 11.

Among the reasons given by Mustapha then was that he was no longer suitable for the post under the present political situation.

Mustapha also said that he was unhappy with the appointment of Land and

Co-operative Development Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai as chairman of the committee to replace Encik Ghafar Baba who resigned on Sept 30.

Dr Mahathir, who visited Mustapha at the centre yesterday, said they did not discuss Mustapha's posts.

Mustapha, who is head of Marudu division, was appointed deputy chairman of Sabah Umno liaison committee on March 12, 1992, and Sabah Affairs Minister in May this year.

Meanwhile Dr Mahathir, when asked about the resignation by reporters in Parliament, said he had received the letter. "But I have yet to give it a thought," he added.

Asked whether he had met Ghafar, Dr Mahathir said: "No I have not."

Dr Mahathir said he was informed by the Attorney-General that the resignation as Deputy Prime Minister by Ghafar does not require his consent.

"This means that the resignation of Ghafar is official. I cannot say I don't accept it," he added.