

□ MUGUNTAN VANAR and RUBEN SARIO at the Sabah State Assembly

# Sabah's '99 budget with 5.21.11.98 RM28m surplus approved

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah State Assembly approved the 1999 state budget with a surplus of RM27.86mil.

The budget tabled by Deputy Chief Minister cum state Finance Minister Datuk Osu Sukam proposed RM1,185.65mil for expenditure and RM1,213.51mil in revenue with a total development expenditure of RM601.37mil.

The 10 ministers present, including Dompok, wound up their budget replies to various issues raised, ranging from the election budget to the PBS opposition party's claims that it would end up as a deficit budget.

A motion and seven

Bills were adopted by the house.

The motion supported the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to head the Malaysian Government and backed the Government's financial policies in tackling the economic crisis.

The debate on the motion saw United States Vice-President Al Gore and Secretary of State Madeline Albright coming under severe criticism.

Among the Bills passed was one to increase the number of Datuks from 25 to 50.

Another was the State Sales Tax Enactment 1998, which will allow the

state to impose taxes on certain approved items.

Absent from the sitting was Minister in the Chief Minister's Department Datuk Yong Teck Lee (BN - Likas), who was in Singapore recovering from surgery.

Barisan's Kunak assemblyman Unding Lana was crippled after a stroke. Assistant Minister of Culture, Tourism and Environment Datuk Nahalan Damsal was also absent from the house.

Speaker Datuk Hassan Alban Sandukong said the assembly would be automatically dissolved on March 18 — the day the five-year term of the Barisan Nasional government would end.