

# Appointment takes Musa by surprise

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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Finance Minister Datuk Musa Aman

said yesterday that he was surprised by the Umno Supreme Council's decision to appoint him as the Sabah Umno liaison committee chairman.

"It came as a big surprise to me," said Musa, who thanked party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the council for having the confidence in him to lead Sabah Umno.

Musa, who is Libaran Umno chief and Sabah Umno treasurer, replaces former chief minister Datuk Osu Sukam who had served as Sabah Umno head since 1997.

"The job comes with a heavy responsibility . . . there are a lot of things which need to be done to ensure that Umno continues to remain strong and united," said Musa, who is a businessman-

turned-politician.

He added that for Sabah Umno to remain a dominant party in Sabah politics, all division leaders, as well as those in the Youth and Wanita movements, should work as a team.

"I hope everyone will close ranks and work together for the party," he added.

Sabah Umno deputy chairman Datuk Salleh Tun Said, when contacted yesterday, said he had no problems working with Musa.

He pledged to give his full cooperation to the new state party leader.

Sabah Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Chone Kah Kiat, who took over as chief minister from Osu in March this year, said he was "happy and grateful" on the appointment of Musa as the state Umno chairman.