

SUN 25 JAN 2002

# Mat Taib steps down as Selangor Umno chief

**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs:** Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib has stepped down from his post as the Selangor Umno state liaison chairman effective today.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made the announcement today,

and said Muhammad will be replaced by present deputy chairman and Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.

He said that Muhammad, who is also an Umno vice-president, will take up the post of deputy chairman.

Muhammad said his resignation is timely as Mohd Khir has had more experience as the mentri besar now.

"I think he is qualified to take over the post, since he has been the mentri besar for a year and a half now," he said.

"This is the right time, since it is the start of the new year.

"I have wanted to resign since last year, and I had voiced this to Mohd Khir, the prime minister and the deputy prime minister."

Muhammad said it is also to streamline the top

state posts under one leader, as Mohd Khir is already the mentri besar and state Barisan Nasional (BN) chief.

He said that he will now concentrate on his federal responsibilities of monitoring several constituencies.