

# Sulaiman to call it quits next year

STAR 9 JUN 2002

AFTER 26 years at the helm of the country's biggest party, 83-year-old Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah is calling it a day as Umno's permanent chairman next year.

Citing poor health, he said it was a good time for him to resign by the end of his term next year and would like someone else to succeed.

Sulaiman joked that it would be easier to chair a United Nations general assembly than an Umno meeting.

"It takes a lot of tolerance and perseverance to handle the thousands of Umno members and leaders attending the annual meetings."

Sulaiman said that at his age, he was finding it difficult to hear and see clearly and he could not walk without help.

"I became an Umno member in 1946 and I have never left the party that has given a lot to the Malay community," Sulaiman said at his speech during the launch of his biography *Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah - Pengerusi Tetap Umno* in conjunction with the 56th Umno general assembly which

begins tomorrow

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the book. Also present were deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Utusan Group executive chairman Tan Sri Kamarul Ariffin Yassin.

The hardcover book, priced at RM230, was published by Utusan Publications and Distributors Sdn Bhd.

Sulaiman said it was fitting that efforts be made to record the activities of Umno members for the benefit of future generations.

He said although the book contained his life history, it also contained information on past permanent chairmen and the party leaders' struggles throughout the years.

Dr Mahathir commended efforts to publish books connected to the party, which could be used as reference for future generations.

He said Sulaiman's experience as a permanent chairman would be a good reference for party members who wished to learn more about the administration of Umno.