

Mat Taib: I'll abide by decisions of party leaders

By FARID JAMALUDIN
STAR - 7 JUL 2002

KUALA TERENGGANU:
Umno vice-president Tan Sri
Muhammad Muhammad Taib
says he is a "party loyalist" who
will abide by all decisions made
by its leaders.

He said he would stay with
Umno "no matter what" and fol-
low all decisions that ensured
the party grew stronger.

He was responding to the
statement by Umno president
Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir
Mohamad that he would have
no objections if Umno vice-
president Datuk Seri Najib Tun
Razak was made Deputy Prime
Minister.

Muhammad said: "I am loyal
to the party. If it is an effort to
make the party stronger, I will
abide by the decision. I will be
loyal to whoever is chosen as
my superior when a decision is
made by the top leadership.

"I am a party man. I live by
party rules and decisions," he
said.

Muhammad, who is also
Barisan Nasional federal co-
ordinator for the Pendang and
Anak Bukit by-elections,
advised party workers to close
ranks and work harder to
ensure an Umno victory.

"We must make sure we
enjoy the confidence of the
rakyat first. In other words, we
have to win the two seats," he
said in a telephone interview
from Alor Star.

Muhammad said that win-
ning the Anak Bukit seat was
important for Umno to regain a
two-thirds majority in the State
Assembly.

"Let us first work for the
party. There is no point in talk-
ing about the leadership struc-
ture if we fail to regain the two-
thirds majority in Kedah."

On the by-election,
Muhammad said the opposition
had shown jitters by verbally
abusing Puteri Umno members,
adding that Umno workers had
been told to be disciplined and
not resort to the kind of dirty
tactics used by PAS.