



NEW APPOINTMENT... Datuk Patinggi Taib (right) looking at his appointment plaque presented to him by Tan Sri Datuk Amar Bujang Noor (centre) while Dr Zawawi looks on. PHOTOGRAPH: MOHD RADZI BUJANG

CM appointed UNIMAS Pro Chancellor

By Johannes Ridu

KUCHING – The Chief Minister yesterday received his appointment as the Pro Chancellor of University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud's appointment letter, handed to him by Tan Sri Bujang Noor, chairman of the UNIMAS Council, at the CHIEF Minister's office at 22nd Floor Wisma Bapa Malaysia here, will take effect from March 21.

According to UNIMAS vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Zawawi Ismail, the appointment will enable UNIMAS to communicate direct with the Chief Minister. The appointment, he added, would benefit the

University tremendously.

Meanwhile, Dr Zawawi said the University was currently facing a shortage of teaching staff but pointed out the problem would be resolved when the University was corporatised.

"The corporatisation of UNIMAS will make it attractive to academicians and managers to work there," he said.

He said UNIMAS had submitted the guidelines and proposals for the corporatisation to the government and was now awaiting the government's decision on the matter.

He also explained that the shortage of teaching staff had not affected the performance and develop-

ment of the University, adding that the institution was keeping an "open-door" policy for academicians who wished to serve there.

The other problem, he said, was shortage of student hostel. The University does not encourage its students to live off campus.

Dr Zawawi disclosed that the University had introduced a degree course in nursing and would take in 30 students for the course this year. They are among the more than 500 new intakes for the 1997 academic year.

He also announced Unimas would hold its first convocation on August 9 where some 200 under-graduates will receive their degrees.