

08 JAN 1999

Abdullah-Profile

ABDULLAH ACTIVE IN POLITICS SINCE 1978

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi became active in politics in 1978 when he was elected the Member of Parliament for Kepala Batas and parliamentary secretary to the Federal Territory Ministry.

He retained his parliamentary constituency for five terms until today.

Abdullah's first post in the government was as Deputy Federal Territory Minister in 1980. He joined Umno in 1965 and was appointed Pulau Pinang Umno liaison chief in 1980.

The year 1981 was a significant year for him when he was elected to the Umno Supreme Council, the first member from Pulau Pinang to be elected in 20 years.

In that year also, he was made Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's first Cabinet.

Abdullah was appointed Minister of Education in 1984 and Umno vice-president in the party elections the same year.

He was Minister of Defence in 1986 but was dropped from the cabinet in 1987 following some internal Umno politics and his alleged involvement with team B led by Tengku Razalaiegh Hamzah.

A Universiti Malaya graduate in Islamic studies, Abdullah, 59, started his career in the civil service in 1964 as an Assistant Secretary in the Public Service Department.

His last civil service post was as Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Abdullah was re-elected vice-president of Umno in the 1987 party elections and became a member of the Umno Baru pro tem supreme council in 1988.

He was appointed Umno Baru vice-president the same year and re-elected Umno vice-president in 1990.

He failed to retain the Umno vice-presidency in 1993 but was appointed a member of the Umno Supreme Council. He made a comeback when he was elected vice-president for the 1996/1999 term, polling the second-highest number of votes with 1053.

He was made Foreign Minister in 1991.

Abdullah is married to Datin Seri Endun Mahmud Ambak and they have two children.

-- BERNAMA

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