

Abdul Rahman made Penang Yang di-Pertua

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed: Datuk Abdul Rahman Abbas, 63, was appointed the new Yang di-Pertua Negri of Penang today

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah handed over the letter of appointment to Abdul Rahman, the former speaker of the State Legislative Assembly, in a ceremony at Istana Negara.

Present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman.

Other dignitaries included Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik and Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie.

Abdul Rahman told *The Sun* in a telephone interview in Penang earlier that his first priority is to enhance unity

"I believe the *muhibbah* concept is vital before the state can achieve greater heights," he said.

He praised Koh, whom he described as a "very capable" leader

"There is no denying that we work very well together," he said.

Bernamea also reports that Abdul Rahman, born on April

15, 1938, in Kepala Batas, Penang, is still actively involved in the Kepala Batas Umno Division.

He received his early education at the Permatang Sintok National Primary School, Kepala Batas, before pursuing his studies at the Sultan Idris Teachers College, Tanjung Malim, in 1955 and later went on for tertiary studies at Universiti Malaya.

Abdul Rahman served as a teacher for more than 20 years before getting actively

involved in politics.

On June 16, 1977, he was elected a member of the State Legislative Assembly after winning the Bertam by-election following the death of Datuk Haji Ahmad Badawi Abdullah.

He was later appointed a member of the state executive council.

He went on to win the Bertam constituency in four general elections held in 1978, 1982, 1986 and 1990 respectively.

Abdul Rahman was later appointed the chairman of the local authority committee and chairman of the housing committee following which he was appointed speaker of the State Legislative Assembly on Dec 5, 1990.

During his duration as member of the state executive council, Abdul Rahman was acting Chief Minister on three occasions.

He is married to Datin Majimor Shariff and has a son and three daughters.