

02/11/2003

Karpal: DAP proud Pak Lah is Prime Minister

PENANG, Sat. - DAP national deputy chairman Karpal Singh today said Penang was proud to have Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, an "anak Pulau Pinang", as Prime Minister.

Karpal said this in a statement on behalf of the DAP to welcome Abdullah as the country's fifth Prime Minister.

He also wished Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad a happy retirement.

"I am also happy that Dr Mahathir was a Prime Minister from Kedah - where I started my legal career and where the DAP, for the first time, secured a seat in the Kedah State Assembly when I won the Alor Star Bandar seat in the 1974 general election."

Karpal said it would not be easy for Abdullah to fill the shoes of his predecessor.

"We have two diametrically opposed personalities in character and personality.

"However, given Abdullah's long experience in Government, he should be an effective Prime Minister."

He said Abdullah should strive to improve the country's human rights record.

"As Prime Minister and Home Minister, he should seriously consider releasing all political detainees ...repealing the Internal Security Act and those laws providing for detention without trial."