

02/11/2003

Koh: Historic day for Penang

PENANG, Sat. - Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon today described Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's homecoming as the nation's fifth Prime Minister as a historic day for the State.

"We feel proud to have him as the Prime Minister. More importantly, we are glad that there was a smooth transfer of power from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Pak Lah," Koh said before thousands of people at the old Penang Airport in Bayan Lepas who had come to welcome Abdullah and his wife, Datuk Seri Endon Mahmood.

Koh said the people had full confidence in Abdullah in continuing the legacy of Dr Mahathir.

This, he said, was because Abdullah "is a tested and fully trusted leader".

Koh said this year was also special for Abdullah as it marked his 25th year as a politician.

"Pak Lah started his political career when he became Member of Parliament after winning the Kepala Batas parliamentary seat back in 1978.

"Since then, he has held the parliamentary secretary's post, deputy minister and various ministers' posts, was Deputy Prime Minister and now is Prime Minister.

"Pak Lah has shown his undivided dedication and service to the rakyat. That is our Pak Lah," Koh said to a thunderous roar of support from the people, who had gathered at the airport's tarmac from as early as 1.30pm.