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NATION'S FIFTH PM

## EX-PM PAK LAH DIES AT 85

King and leaders  
offer their  
condolences

KUALA LUMPUR

**F**ORMER prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has died at age 85.

The news was confirmed by his son-in-law and former health minister Khairy Jamaluddin in an Instagram post.

"Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysia's fifth prime minister, passed away at 7.10pm at the National Heart Institute (IJN). May Allah SWT bless his soul and place him among the righteous. *Al-Fatihah*," Khairy wrote.

IJN said Abdullah was admitted on Sunday morning after experiencing breathing difficulties.

It said he was immediately placed under intensive care at the Coronary Care Unit (CCU), where he was closely monitored by a team of cardiac specialists.

It said despite all medical ef-

forts, he passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones.

IJN chief executive officer Professor Datuk Sri Dr Mohamed Ezani Md Taib said caring for Abdullah in his final hours was both a privilege and an honour.

"His humility and grace touched many of our staff and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May he rest in eternal peace. *Al-Fatihah*."

Abdullah's attending consultant cardiologist and IJN Cardiology Department head, Datuk Dr Azmee Ghazi, said: "Tun Abdullah carried himself with quiet strength and dignity. Even in his final moments, he remained calm and kind. It was truly an honour for our team to be by his side."

Abdullah, fondly known as Pak Lah, will be laid to rest today in Makam Pahlawan in Masjid Negara, where former prime ministers Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussein Onn were buried.

Khairy said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had spoken to Abdullah's son, Tan Sri Kamaluddin Abdullah, regarding the burial arrangements.

He said the funeral prayer will



*Then prime minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi speaking at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur in November 2003.*

NSTP FILE PIC

be performed after Zohor, followed by the burial.

“We would like to thank the prime minister who earlier discussed this matter with my brother-in-law and has given his confirmation and consent for Pak Lah to be buried at Makam Pahlawan.

“From 11am to 1pm, Tun Abdullah’s body will be placed in the main prayer hall of Masjid Negara to allow members of the public to pay their final respects.

“We welcome anyone who wishes to offer their last respects to come to Masjid Negara between 11am and 1pm,” he said at IJN.

Condolences from leaders began pouring in after the announcement of Abdullah’s death.

His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia posted a black and white picture of Abdullah taken during his tenure as prime minister, saying “*Al-Fatihah*”.

Anwar paid tribute to Abdullah, saying that amid the often tense and stifling pace of politics, the former prime minister was always a calming presence.

“Pak Lah was not merely a leader, but a man of great character

who introduced a new narrative in the politics of power in Malaysia.

“Through the Islam Hadhari approach, he bridged progress and development with values.

“Under his leadership, we witnessed reforms in the judiciary, greater transparency in governance and the empowerment of institutions.”

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof called Abdullah’s passing a great loss to the people and the nation.

“His service and leadership, grounded in Islam Hadhari and focused on human capital development throughout his tenure... will always be remembered.”

Abdullah, who succeeded Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as prime minister on Oct, 31, 2003, served until April 2, 2009. He was succeeded by Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He was the sixth president of Umno and was conferred the title “Tun” by then king Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin for his service to the nation.

Abdullah is survived by his wife, Tun Jeanne Abdullah, and two children, Kamaluddin and Nori.