



Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, then deputy prime minister, being greeted by his Singaporean counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, at Changi International Airport on Feb 7, 2001. BERNAMA PIC

'Singapore owes debt of gratitude to Abdullah'

SINGAPORE: Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was a friend of Singapore who advanced bilateral relations between the two nations.

In a letter to Abdullah's widow, Tun Jeanne Abdullah, Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said Malaysia's fifth prime minister was amiable yet firm, always willing to foster cooperation and mutual support.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to Tun Abdullah for his friendship over the years."

The letter, dated April 14, was shared by Singapore's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

Wong added that Abdullah would be remembered as a warm and generous individual who led Malaysia with humility, wisdom and compassion.

In a separate letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Wong highlighted Ab-

dullah's efforts to resolve long-standing bilateral issues.

"For instance, both countries agreed to abide by the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the sovereignty of Pedra Branca (Pulau Batu Puteh) and Middle Rocks.

"Despite the difficulties, Tun Abdullah always engaged with us constructively, often defusing tense moments with his congenial personality."

Wong also acknowledged Abdullah's efforts in deepening cooperation on matters of mutual interest, such as the development of Iskandar Malaysia, and his role in elevating Asean's international standing during a period of significant global change.

"As prime minister of Malaysia from 2003 to 2009, Tun Abdullah was an inspiration to many."

Bernama