

Renamed highway a tribute to Pak Lah

Former PM's legacy lives on in his native Batu Kawan



Lasting legacy: The 5.5km Bandar Cassia Highway in Batu Kawan will be renamed as Jalan Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to honour the late prime minister. - File photo

GEORGE TOWN: The 5.5km Bandar Cassia Highway in Batu Kawan will be renamed Jalan Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in honour of Malaysia's fifth prime minister.

Announcing this, Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said this is a tribute to the late Abdullah's contributions to the state during his tenure as prime minister from 2003 to 2009.

"The Sultan Abdul Halim Muadzam Shah Bridge or the Second Penang Bridge was the greatest gift of the late Tun Abdullah to the people of Pulau Mutiara when he announced the project in his speech in tabling the Ninth Malaysia Plan in Parliament in 2003.

"As a result, the second bridge

has boosted economic growth between Batu Maung on the island and the development of Bandar Cassia in Batu Kawan as a new industrial zone," he said.

Chow said Abdullah, fondly known as Pak Lah, had officially named Bandar Cassia on Aug 24, 2004, with the name formally endorsed by the state government on Aug 10, 2016.

"To ensure his legacy endures, the state government has decided to rename the Bandar Cassia Highway as Jalan Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," Chow said.

He added that under Abdullah's leadership, Penang benefited from several major initiatives.

These include the RM1bil expansion of the Penang International Airport, the RM2.7bil development

of Penang Sentral, the Butterworth Outer Ring Road and the setting up of the Northern Corridor Economic Region.

"Tun Abdullah's passing is a profound loss to the nation, especially for Penang.

"May his service and contributions in developing the country and this state always remain in the hearts of all Malaysians and Penangites," said Chow.

As a mark of respect, the Penang state flag will be flown at half-mast tomorrow by all government agencies and local councils, Chow added.

Private premises have also been urged to do the same.

A native of Penang born in Bayan Lepas, Abdullah passed away at the age of 85 on Monday.