

Former PM Pak Lah dies at 85

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's fifth prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (*pic*) died yesterday at the age of 85.

The news about the passing of the statesman at the National Heart Institute was confirmed by his son-in-law, Khairy Jamaluddin, through a social media post, Bernama reported.

"May Allah bless his soul and place him among the righteous. *Al-Fatihah*", he posted.



Born on Nov 26, 1939 in Bayan Lepas, Penang, Abdullah helmed the country's premiership from Oct 31, 2003 until April 3, 2009, following the resignation of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Pak Lah, as he was popularly known, was respected in diplomatic and international circles, as he strove to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation globally.

He actively led Asean, the Non-

Aligned Movement and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference when Malaysia chaired these bodies under his tenure.

Often referred to as Mr Clean, Abdullah also oversaw the development of Malaysia's five regional economic corridors to narrow the income gap among the people.

Among his key legacies are the National Integrity Plan and Malaysian Institute of Integrity, which were inceptioned under his leadership to promote a values-based society with a serious effort to make integrity and honesty a way of life.