

# Najib, Ismail Sabri pay tributes to Abdullah

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Two former prime ministers paid tribute to the late Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, reflecting on their time serving under his administration, and sharing personal memories of his leadership.

Describing the late Abdullah as a friend and mentor, Datuk Seri Najib Razak recalled him as a guiding figure, whose advice and leadership deeply influenced his own journey.

Najib, who succeeded Abdullah as Malaysia's sixth prime minister, admired his predecessor's governance style, which was anchored in accountability, and a commitment to excellence in both politics and public administration.

"His spirit and principles were among the key inspirations behind the formulation of the 1Malaysia concept - People First, Performance Now - which guided my administration.

"On a personal level, Pak Lah was very close to our family, like an elder brother and loyal friend through all of life's ups and downs.

"Pak Lah will always be remembered for his immense contributions to religion, race and country. He was a noble soul. My heartfelt condolences to all members of Pak Lah's family and friends," Najib wrote in a Facebook post.

Najib served as the deputy prime minister under Abdullah's leadership from Jan 7, 2004, to April 3, 2009.

Meanwhile, the country's ninth prime minister, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, described Abdullah as a father figure, who nurtured and guided him in both politics and governance throughout his rise in public service.

"I am deeply indebted to Pak Lah, who gave me the opportunity to contest the Bera parliamentary seat in 2004, and later entrusted me with the responsibility as minister of youth and sports in 2008.

"The nation mourns this great loss. He was a statesman who dedicated his life to the service of religion, race and the country. His contributions are deeply appreciated, especially by me," Ismail Sabri said in a tribute on Facebook.

- Bernama