

# OIC's support for Sudan

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## Pak Lah: We will back any solution to Darfur problem

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**KHARTOUM:** The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will support Sudan in any move that will solve the Darfur problem, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

The Prime Minister, who chairs the OIC, said any suggestion of sanctions on Sudan would only aggravate the sufferings of the people.

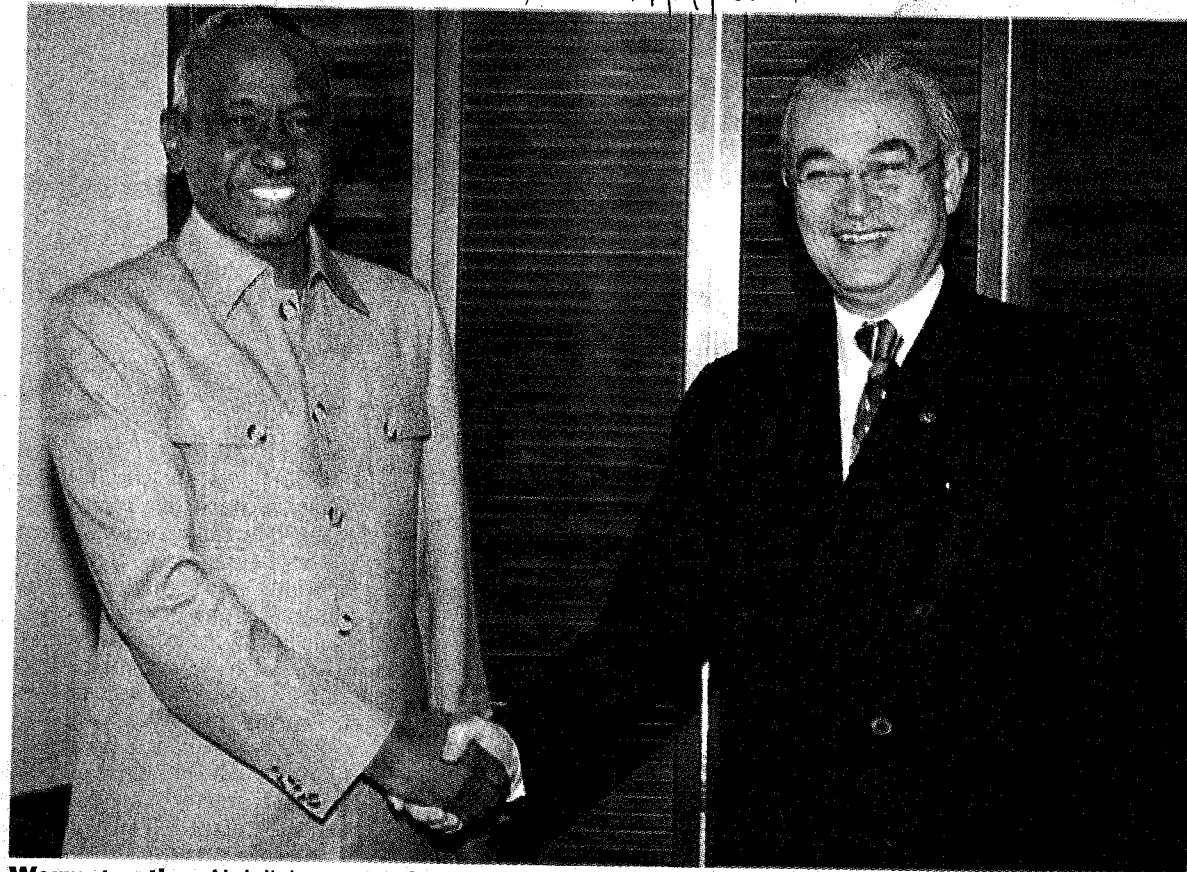
"The OIC's stand is that it will support any move that will solve the problems in Darfur," he told the Malaysian media during his three-day official visit to Sudan.

Abdullah was commenting on a request by Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir for support from the organisation to ward off pressures from the West for foreign troops to be placed in Darfur.

Al-Bashir made the request in his opening remarks during the Malaysian-Sudanese delegation talks earlier.

He also asked the OIC to apply pressure on movements opposing the peace agreement for Darfur and OIC's assistance in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Darfur.

Abdullah said the Sudanese president had told him that the situation in Darfur was not as bad as it had been reported by the media.



**Warm greeting:** Abdullah greeting Sudanese Vice-President Ali Osman Mohammad Taha who called on Abdullah at his hotel in Khartoum yesterday. — Bernama

"I told him that any success towards solving the Darfur problem should be highlighted prominently.

"If not, even if there is success, there will always be a negative perception of the situation there," he said.

Abdullah added that many countries wanted Al-Bashir to play a

greater role in the Darfur problem.

On Malaysian investments in Sudan, Abdullah said the Government would not be placing any limit on the amount Petronas invested in Africa's largest country.

"I leave it to Petronas to decide on all its opportunities in the country," he said.

Addressing the Malaysia-Sudan business forum, Abdullah called for greater trade liberalisation among OIC members so that there would be an expansion and diversification of trade.

He said Sudan should ratify the organisation's Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme.