

# Pak Lah lauds Sharifah

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**NAIROBI:** Datin Paduka Sharifah Mazlina Syed Kadir's feat as the first Asian woman to conquer the North and South Poles is a true reflection of the *Malaysia Boleh!* spirit, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"She has made all of us proud. Congratulations! She is one strong-willed person who showed commitment to achieve her endeavour," the Prime Minister told Malaysian journalists covering his official visit to Kenya on Wednesday night.

Abdullah hoped Sharifah Mazlina would arrive home safely and in good health.

On his visit to Kenya, the first official visit of a Malaysian Prime Minister to this East African nation, Abdullah, who was earlier feted at a state banquet hosted by President Mwai Kibaki, said:

"I can say this is a successful visit in our effort to activate bilateral relations especially in enhancing economic ties and promoting other sectors like education and infrastructure.



**Sharifah Mazlina: First Asian woman to conquer North and South Poles**

"When I spoke to the president during dinner, he wanted the Malaysia-Kenya Joint Commission to be set up fast to facilitate joint programmes."

Asked to elaborate on his trip to the troubled Darfur region during his earlier visit to Sudan, the prime minister felt that the situation there was not as bad as that portrayed by the Western media.

He said Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir told him that the government was taking remedial action to improve conditions

in Darfur.

Abdullah hoped no sanctions would be imposed against Sudan as it would only lead to more misery for the people.

"Sudan is not a rich country. They are beginning to benefit from oil and gas but it does not mean that they are already well-to-do," he added.

Abdullah left here yesterday to begin his official visit to Namibia.