

# Abdullah: Proud moment for M'sia

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The launch of Measat 3 in Kazakhstan demonstrated that Malaysia could take another step further in the development of satellite communication technology, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

In a recorded message aired at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre where Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and about 1,200 guests were gathered to witness the launch, the Prime Minister said: "It is our proud moment. It demonstrates our seriousness in the development of satellite technology communication."

The Proton Breeze-M rocket carrying the Measat 3 satellite successfully took off at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 7.28:30am Malaysian time (5.28:30am Baikonur time). The launch was beamed live via satellite video feed at KLCC.

Abdullah said: "We want to be a serious player in the application of such technology in the fields of education, communication, broadcasting and entertainment."

He said the satellite launch had provided Malaysia the opportunity to share experiences and technology with other countries developing the same technology.

Najib said Measat 3 has effectively catapulted the country into the top echelon of technologically-advanced nations.

He said the launch of the new satellite was proof that Malaysians could achieve their goals if they put their hearts and minds to it.

Najib said that the possibilities for advancement through satellite technology were endless, with all kinds of applications possible in healthcare and education.

"In healthcare, those in remote areas can have access to better diagnosis and treatment as rural healthcare professionals can communicate with specialists in top hospitals," he said.

The Measat 3 satellite, costing RM1bil, will increase the capacity of Measat Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd and expand its ability to better serve all its customers in the Asian region on top of its existing Measat 1 and 2 satellites. — Bernama