

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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Congratulations, says PM

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has congratulated Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor Sheikh Mustapha for being picked as Malaysia's first angkasawan who will go into space today.

"I wish to congratulate him. I hope that he'll do well," he said.

"I'm sure the Russians know best. They have done everything they could to ensure that the person who is finally selected for the mission, will be the one who is capable of performing the task that is assigned to him," he said.

Dr Muszaphar was picked by the Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos) selection panel to join



American Commander Peggy Whitson and Russian flight engineer Yuri Malechenko for the space mission that will blast off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 9.21pm.

The 35-year-old orthopaedic surgeon from Seremban, Negri Sembilan will spend 10 days on the International Space Station.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Dr Muszaphar was chosen on merit, his suitability to

become an angkasawan and ability to conduct scientific experiments during his stay in space.
— Bernama