

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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## PM thankful for mission's success

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi last night expressed his happiness and gratitude that the country's first space mission had achieved its objectives.

Abdullah said he was thankful to Allah that Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor had successfully carried out his mission and returned to Earth safely.

"For Dr Muszaphar, he had accomplished his mission. For the government, it was an important and major success for its first space project."

He said the success of the mission had given Malaysians the confidence that the country's future plans could be achieved successfully.

"It gives us the confidence to continue with our plans and to accomplish whatever programmes that we have drawn up."

He said the success of the mission would inspire the younger generation to be involved in space science.

He added that Dr Muszaphar's achievement would benefit the country and the astronaut would address a certain target audience to inspire more Malaysians to get involved in space science.

Abdullah said the government would also involve Dr Muszaphar in future space programmes.