

SPEECH BY

**PROFESSOR TS DR MOHAMED IBRAHIM ABDUL MUTALIB
VICE CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI PETRONAS FOR**

UTP EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY 2019

**Wednesday, 29 June 2019
2.00 pm at Chancellor Hall, UTP**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ahmad Nizam Salleh

Chairman of PETRONAS

And Pro Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS

Members of the UTP Executive Management Committee and Senate

Fellow Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Salam Sejahtera and a very good afternoon.

Alhamdulillah, let us thank Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala for it is with His blessings that we are able to gather here this afternoon for Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP)'s Employee Recognition Day 2019. I would also like to record my deepest appreciation to our guest of honour today, Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ahmad Nizam Salleh, Chairman of PETRONAS and Pro Chancellor of UTP for making time to grace our Employee Recognition Day 2019.

Each year, we celebrate staff achievements and honour our long-serving staff. In 2017, we had two separate events, the UTP Quality Day and Employee Recognition Night. This year we are merging the two events into one in which we name today's event, Employee Recognition Day 2019. The objectives remain the same – to celebrate both staff achievements and our long-serving staff. In the university calendar, this is still one of the most important events where we formally recognise successes through the various awards, and where we also thank those who have been with UTP for 10, 15 and 20 years. These staff have continuously reaffirmed their commitment and enthusiasm in embracing and practicing the highest quality culture at the workplace. This year, we are also celebrating the retirees.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the winners who are honoured today. Your determination, commitment, resolve and drive are inspirational. You challenge each of us to reflect on how we can do more to improve what we do. I hope you will motivate others to also excel and further strengthen the university's value-driven education approach.

For the long-service staff and the retirees, personally, I feel so honoured to be in an organisation of so many long-serving individuals who have dedicated their lives to UTP. All of you exemplify the true essence of loyalty to the organisation. Thank you for all of your dedication.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to share with you the recent good news on our university's standings. It was a double joy for UTP when the university rises significantly in the Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) recently. For THE Young University Rankings 2019 (universities under 50 years of establishment), UTP is ranked highest in the nation at 101-150. The university has recorded a steady growth in terms of its rank, as last year it was placed at 151-200. We also scored the highest in two areas, international outlook and research.

For QS World University Rankings 2020, we improved our position, rising 39 spots and is now at 482nd place. We are ranked among the 1,620 institutions worldwide and have now jumped 119 places since our debut in the rankings in 2017. The analysis into the ranking results showed UTP's significant improvements in four indicators, namely academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per faculty and faculty-student ratio. For international faculty, UTP scores the highest in the nation with 82.2.

These milestones and achievements would not have been possible without the guidance and direction of PETRONAS. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the staff of this university – the faculty members, management as well as the support team. Thank you all for your effort and hardwork in helping this university come this far. Moving forward, we will continue to emphasise on strategies leading towards academic leadership, research stewardship, students' experience and operational excellence in our quest to become globally prominent.

As we all know, the challenges of the higher education sector have over the years, become more intense, more demanding. But so far, we have managed to overcome and consider all these challenges as pathways for learning and progress. But we also need to progress, not just that, but we need to be ahead of the curve. This requires strengthening weaknesses, fortifying strengths, daringly venturing into new waters, and most of all, it requires change, and courage to pursue the impossible. In the words of Robin S. Sharma, the author of *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari: A Fable About Fulfilling Your Dreams and Reaching Your Destiny*; *“Don't accept a life of mediocrity when you hold such infinite potential within the fortress of your mind. Dare to tap into your greatness.”*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the heart of an organisation is the people who have made our achievements possible. You are those people, and this afternoon I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your invaluable contribution to the University's success story. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartiest appreciation to the spouse who have become the pillar of strength. Thank you for being a part of the university.

Let me emphasize the need for us to remain committed to our vision and mission. We must continue to remain united and loyal to the organisation, always act professionally, take ownership in what we do, and continuously uphold our values. There will no doubt be hurdles and challenges along the way and what is required from all of us now is a change in mindset and

attitude. Since the university embarked on its quality journey in the year 1999, which was more than 22 years ago, we have never looked back.

It will be a long and hard journey but with perseverance and persistence, this university will remain unique in its outlook, distinctive in its reputation and become a priceless icon to all including PETRONAS and the nation. Together we can achieve our aspiration in achieving Global Prominence.

Thank you. Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.