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A Message from the Higher Education Minister

OVER the past 35 years, Universiti Sains Malaysia has evolved from a new uncharted university to one that deserves its place as a reputed institution of higher learning.

The emergence of a knowledge-economy in an age of globalisation dictates that the growing concerns of a university be focused on problems and issues that are brought in its wake: social, physical, medical and health-related.

Appropriately enough then, this year Universiti Sains Malaysia is celebrating the anniversaries of three of its centres that are directly or indirectly associated with the field of medicine and health: the School of Medical Sciences, Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia and the National Poison Centre. It also honours the name of an individual who in so many ways has, over 20 years of public service as Prime Minister, dedicated his life to the betterment of our society and nation, Y.A Bhg Tun Dr Mathatir Mohamad. More specifically in this celebration, the university will record its debt to Tun Dr Mathatir for his encouragement in science and technology and into research in Antarctica and with Cuba. As families share the joy of their loved ones on the eve of their new life for which they are now better equipped, they should be proud to acknowledge the contribution of the institution that helped to mould them, an institution that continues to surge forward in a manner that can be termed only as progressive, enlightened and innovative. They should also reflect on how they themselves can best serve their nation, following in the footsteps of a great leader.

I congratulate the university, Tun Dr Mahathir and graduating students on this special occasion.

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