

UCAPAN
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
SEMPENA PELANCARAN SAMBUTAN ULANG TAHUN PETRONAS YANG KE-25
DI PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS
17 OGOS 1999

Saya bersyukur kehadiran Allah s.w.t. kerana dapat bersama-sama dengan kakitangan Petronas pada hari yang amat bermakna ini. Di sini saya ingin mengambil kesempatan untuk mengucapkan tahniah kepada Petronas sempena ulang tahunnya yang ke-25. Bagaimanapun, hari ini bukan setakat untuk meraikan ulang tahun Petronas. Hari ini merupakan satu peristiwa penting dan bersejarah bagi Malaysia dan amat sesuai bagi kita merenung kembali segala pencapaian dan sumbangan bermakna yang telah dibuat oleh Petronas sepanjang 25 tahun lepas. Sesungguhnya, kemajuan pesat yang dicatat oleh Petronas dalam waktu sesingkat itu telah membolehkan perbadanan ini memainkan peranan pentingnya secara berterusan dalam pembangunan perindustrian serta pembangunan negara dan mendorong Malaysia lebih hampir ke arah merealisasikan wawasan 2020.

2. Untuk faedah para jemputan dari luar negara, saya akan meneruskan ucapan ini dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. It gives me great pleasure to be here with you this afternoon on this special day. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Petronas on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. Today is more than just a celebration of Petronas coming of age. It marks a historic milestone for Malaysia as we reflect upon the achievements and contributions made by our national petroleum corporation over the past 25 years. Indeed, Petronas rapid growth within this relatively short period has enabled the corporation to continuously play a key role in the country's industrialisation and development, propelling the nation closer towards its vision 2020.

4. The evolution and transformation of Petronas from its early years to what it is today was achieved through strong support of the government, good relationship with multinational oil companies as well as National Oil Companies (NOCs) and the conscious effort on the part of the management and employees to learn the business. Skills upgrading and people development as well as the acquisition of new technologies remain as key strategies in the organisation today. Thus, from a mere regulator and manager of the upstream sector-collecting revenues from Production Sharing Contracts or PSCs following its incorporation on 17 August 1974, Petronas has evolved into a fully integrated oil and gas company, both in the domestic and in the global arena, while at the same time playing its role in ensuring the orderly development of the petroleum industry in Malaysia for the benefit of the nation and its people.

5. As an NOC, Petronas has been involved directly in various infrastructure projects to facilitate the development of the other sectors of the economy, thereby contributing towards the economic growth of the nation. For example, one of the important infrastructure projects in Malaysia is the Peninsular Gas Utilisation project (PGU). This three- phased project, costing about US\$ 9 billion, involving the construction of 2000 km of gas pipelines and gas processing plants of 2000 mmscfd capacity, has provided PSC contractors with the opportunity to develop the gas

reserves previously discovered but not utilised. This in turn has provided the nation with an alternative fuel for power generation required for its industrialisation process. The development of the PGU project has also served as a catalyst for the development of the petrochemical industry in Malaysia, thereby complementing the growth of the manufacturing sector.

6. As Petronas embarked on its globalisation efforts in early 1990s, the philosophy of mutually beneficial partnership was extended into the global arena through joint ventures in the various host countries. For Petronas, the relationship it had with its foreign counterparts at home had enabled the corporation to develop its competencies and the necessary expertise to compete effectively overseas. All experiences to-date have indicated that Petronas has managed to learn from its partnerships and is able today to participate actively and meaningfully in the oil industry both at home and in the international arena.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. The petroleum industry was not exclusive only to Petronas. A master plan was drafted in the early 80's to ensure the involvement of local entrepreneurs in petroleum-related industry such as offshore jackets and platform fabrication, marine engineering and services, transportation, pipes manufacturing, etc.. In 1993, a Vendor Development Programme was introduced to promote this further where selected local companies were awarded contracts to produce equipment or provide services on a long-term basis. This provided local entrepreneurs with the incentive and confidence to increase their capital base so that they can expand their businesses and become more competitive not only in the domestic market but also internationally. By increasing local content, Malaysia also became less dependent on imported materials and services which led to substantial cost and foreign exchange savings. Today, we are pleased to see the creation of capable and competent local companies, especially bumiputera, participating meaningfully in this sector, with some even making headways internationally.

8. It has been acknowledged that the success of a company and even a nation depends on its people. In this regard, i am pleased to note that skills upgrading and people development as well as the acquisition of new technologies remain as key strategies in the organisation today. The enhancement and building of such capabilities must continue and be an integral part of human resource development. In the case of Petronas, scholarships were given to outstanding students especially bumiputera to pursue further education, resulting in the birth of professionals such as engineers and accountants. Many of these professionals have taken over jobs formerly filled by expatriates, and risen to senior management levels, even in the major foreign-owned companies operating in Malaysia. What is more important is the fact that the organisation has been able to produce resilient and versatile workforce, able to contribute meaningfully to the company, the nation and its people. Who would have thought 25 years ago to see Malaysians working in the hot Sahara desert of Sudan to produce oil for that nation? This is certainly an achievement that not only Petronas staff but all of us Malaysians should be proud of. It stands as a testimony that Malaysians have come of age.

9. The theme selected by Petronas for its silver jubilee: 25 years of growth with the people for the nation is certainly apt and timely. I am confident that Petronas will continue to play its role in nation building and will continue to prove that it is capable of contributing to the well being of the people and the nation.

Saudara-saudari,

10. Bagi pihak kerajaan Malaysia dan seluruh rakyat, saya sekali lagi ingin mengucapkan tahniah dan terima kasih kepada Petronas terhadap segala pencapaiannya selama ini untuk kebaikan semua. Ia telah berpegang teguh terhadap objektifnya untuk menyumbang kepada kemakmuran rakyat dan negara dan menjadi satu pengiktirafan kepada kemampuan negara. Dengan ketabahan, kecekalan dan usaha gigih, Petronas telah menjadi begitu mantap walaupun dalam usia yang agak muda dan mampu bersaing dengan lain-lain syarikat minyak yang lebih dewasa.

11. Saya dengan ini melancarkan sambutan ulang tahun ke-25 Petronas.

Wassalam.

Terima kasih.