

**SPEECH BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI AT THE MALAYSIA
BOOK OF RECORDS AWARDS NIGHT AT KL HILTON, KUALA LUMPUR.
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(Dibaca oleh YB Datuk Seri Mohd Affendi Norwawi)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a Good Evening

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to begin by thanking the Malaysia Book of Records for inviting me to tonight's dinner as well as to launch their 10th Anniversary Edition. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be given the opportunity to address you and the many achievers who have made us very proud to be Malaysians.

I am pleased that tonight's dinner will also witness to the launch of the Malaysia Book of Record's 10th Anniversary Edition which lends a new perspective to the accomplishments made in various aspects of society. Most importantly, its purpose echoes the government's call to all Malaysians to play their role in nation-building because it is our National Mission to achieve Vision 2020.

Launched on 11th July, 1995, The Malaysia Book of Records was, and still is the publication which not only informs Malaysians everywhere of their fellow countrymen's achievements but also highlights the many fascinating treasures of our country.

When I looked through the pages, I am amazed by the many achievements accomplished by Malaysians with feats that never fail to astonish and delight the readers. We must take a moment to appreciate the courage, determination and passion behind these feats as well as celebrate the strength and conviction of our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We should remind ourselves that although it is admirable to achieve the biggest, the tallest, and the largest of everything, it may not always be meaningful or beneficial towards our National Mission of achieving Vision 2020. Malaysians should focus on quality, world class achievements which will add value to our society, enrich our culture, strengthen our moral fibre and provide strong role models for young Malaysians. For example, our national squash player, Nicol David has proven that Malaysians have the mental and physical discipline to compete with the best in the world and win. The superior achievements of Dr. Jemilah Mahmood of Mercy

Malaysia in Iraq and Aceh have been recognized internationally and display a positive and strong image of outstanding moral character. Finally, our three space astronaut candidates are great examples of world-class courage, determination and strength in daring to dream the impossible beyond even earthly borders. I am proud of their achievements and want to see more of these outstanding characters emerge from Malaysia.

Under the 9th Malaysia Plan, I have impressed upon the country that in order to compete globally, we need to increase the quality of human capital in Malaysia by raising the capacity for knowledge and nurture a "first class mentality". Therefore, recognizing individuals who take initiatives to perform and excel is crucial to our human capital development plans. The Malaysian Book of Records is a good "practice zone" and a great encouragement for Malaysians to hone the culture of performance and excellence. However, to raise the capacity for knowledge crucial for our future development, Malaysians need to start breaking international records, innovate and be the best in diverse fields such as science, education and business.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The culture of achievement knows no boundaries, whether race, religion, age or gender. I am happy to note that The Malaysia Book of Records consciously plays a role in uniting the people of Malaysia, traversing all parts of the country to cover record-breaking events, thereby propagating the beliefs and hopes of the nation. They have done an excellent job of researching and compiling the achievements of Malaysian men and women and I commend their efforts and successes.

We must never fail to note that behind every organization are a leader and its team, the driving force of its success. I would like to congratulate Datuk Danny Ooi, the founder and Managing Director of the Malaysia Book of Records for his inspiration and dedication for making the Malaysia Book of Records what it is today.

In today's competitive world, Malaysians must equip themselves to face the future with confidence and self-belief that we are no lesser individuals than anyone else; that Malaysians have proven themselves time and time again of their talent and capacity for excellence. Therefore, congratulations to the Record-holders for making the country very proud of you. I hope you continue to break records not just nationally, but internationally. The sky is the limit.

For all Malaysians here today, the Record-holders should inspire you to seize the day, to dream and to achieve. Turn your thoughts and ideas into record-breaking reality.

Let us be a nation of 'Cemerlang, Gemilang dan Terbilang'!

I hereby launch the 10th Anniversary Edition of the Malaysia Book of Records.

Thank You.