

Penyampai : DATO SERI DR SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD ALI
Tajuk : HARI KONVOKESYEN PERTAMA UNIVERSITI MULTIMEDIA
Lokasi : UNIVERSITI MULTIMEDIA, CYBERJAYA
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Bersyukur kita ke-hadrat Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala kerana dengan limpah dan izinNya dapat kita bersama-sama pada hari ini bagi menyempurnakan majlis konvokesyen yang pertama bagi Universiti Multimedia. Hari ini merupakan hari yang bersejarah dan penuh bermakna bagi Universiti Multimedia kerana telah berjaya melahirkan graduan sulungnya pada hari ini.

2. Tahniat saya ucapkan kepada para pelajar yang pada hari ini bergelar graduan kerana telah berjaya menamatkan pengajian mereka di Universiti Multimedia.

Pada kesempatan ini juga ingin saya merakamkan setinggi-tinggi terima kasih kepada ibu bapa serta saudara mara kepada para graduan kerana turut bersama-sama menyaksikan kejayaan anak-anak mereka pada hari ini. Syabas dan tahniat jua.

3. Saya yakin ibu bapa, saudara mara kepada para graduan pasti amat gembira di atas kejayaan yang ditempa oleh anak-anak mereka. Dengan itu para graduan semua harus sedar, tanpa sokongan dan galakan daripada para ibu dan bapa tidak mungkin anda akan berada di menara gading. Jasa yang di sumbangkan oleh ibu dan bapa tidak ada tolok bandingnya. Sejak kecil anda semua dibelai, dimanja oleh ibu dan bapa dengan penuh rapi. Pada hari ini, perlulah anda fikirkan apakah jasa serta sumbangan yang akan anda taburkan kepada ibu dan bapa atau penjaga selama ini, seperti tanda kesyukuran, terima kasih dan kasih sayang kita kepada mereka.

4. Selepas ini anda semua akan melangkah ke alam pekerjaan. Jadi gunakanlah kesempatan yang ada dengan sebaiknya untuk berbakti kepada negara dan membalas jasa kedua ibu bapa selagi hayat mereka masih ada.

5. The new millennium has just begun and the graduates of today must be prepared for the evolution of tomorrow's world. The world turning into a global village has gone beyond mere rhetoric. Borders are disappearing and the information age is changing the way a person works and interacts with others. A significant development in one part of the world has an almost instantaneous effect everywhere. The spread of ideas, ideologies, cultures and technologies has no limitations in the borderless world. There is every indication that life in the twenty-first century will be accompanied by an accelerated rate of change. With advances in the fields of science and technology, and the explosive growth of information, a person is constantly being reminded that some of the knowledge and skills that have been acquired may change or even be obsolete. These developments greatly affect human life, and the ability to cope with change has become vital. Therefore, those graduating today must be prepared to be able to apply knowledge they have acquired, manage an influx of information and think critically under tomorrow's evolving conditions. I believe that we have graduates who have the passion for continuous quest for learning here in this room today.

6. The university is no longer the transmission agent of knowledge in the 21st century. The role of university is not merely to produce knowledge-workers for the country but more importantly to instill skills necessary for them to succeed. The qualities needed in the quest for excellent workers are intellectualism, professionalism and self-discipline with the common core of humanistic, ethical and international values. I believe the Multimedia University has integrated these skills to produce holistic individuals in those who are about to graduate today.

7. In its strategy, the Multimedia University has also inculcated innovation and creativity amongst its student body. Malaysia is gradually exposed to the open market and the nation will face a more determined, educated and strong competitors. If we are to march forth in this 'battle of the brain', the weapon we have to be equipped with is not mere knowledge but the ability to use wisdom to create and innovate. Creative and innovative people are often critical and possess an inquiring mind besides being willing to go beyond the norm. I envision that these graduates who are decked with knowledge of new

technologies are thus the answer to the future need of the country of able leaders and skilled technopreneurs. I believe we have such leaders amidst us today.

8. I am heartened to note that the Multimedia University has begun to narrow the existing gap that exists between an academic higher institution and the external communities at large. A university should not be an island by itself to accelerate into the 21st Century. As such, to meet the challenges of the times, the University must work closely with society and industry in every educational aspect especially in research. There are 17 Centres of Excellence in the Multimedia University devoted to R&D activities, some of which are upon collaboration with international companies, which are pioneers in their respective fields. Since the Multimedia University is situated in the heart of Cyberjaya and its role is to support the growth of MSC, the University and industry should be equal partners in these exciting endeavours. Joint activities in research shall contribute significantly to the growth of the industries. This is a vital prerequisite to Malaysia becoming an integral international player in the digital age.

9. I am encouraged to learn that the Multimedia University has taken a giant step in producing and using technologies. The University practises what it preaches by using information technology in its daily activities.

For instance, E-governance is exercised through a well- managed campus administration system. The concept of E- commerce is also introduced via electronic purse with the usage of the smartcard. The University is also exploring with modernistic ways of teaching and learning using the methodology of E-learning. Education can now capitalise on futuristic technologies incorporating the multimedia resources that are available. Hence, apart from the need to equip students with I.T. skills for the digital era, I.T. is introduced to support teaching and learning activities. However, this paradigm shift of educating in a technological environment still emphasises the pivotal role of students and teachers. After all, technology should strive along with the humanistic nature.

10. As there are dreams and visions of great leaders, I too have a vision for the Multimedia University. The University in its short period of existence has played many roles including striving to produce graduates of tomorrow, pioneering leading-edge technology researches and exerting to be a centre of academic excellence. I like to claim another crucial role for the Multimedia University that is to be a selfless bridge between technology and society. The University should contribute a key role in introducing information technology and multimedia to the public at large as of this day.

11. 1999 has been a monumental year for the Multimedia University with the launching of the Cyberjaya campus and agreements of new collaborations. The year 2000 promises more achievements to be accomplished by the University and this celebration of its first ever graduate marks the beginning of such future achievements of the Multimedia University. However, the University's journey is still vast and arduous as it sets its sails into the uncharted waters of the 21st century. The University will still need to meet many challenges. I am confident that the direction of the University's sail is right and that it shall be able to conquer the ocean pretty smoothly.

12. I would like to once again congratulate those who are about to graduate today. My congratulations also are to their parents, family members and also to the lecturers who have contributed to molding these "Cyber" graduates. This day is indeed a day of celebration for all of us as it signifies a set of graduates ready to bring the nation another step forward. May the Almighty bless you with good health and guidance for the future.

13. Dengan kuasa yang diberikan kepada saya, dengan lafaz Bismillahir rahmanir rahim saya mengistiharkan Pembukaan Majlis Konvokesyen Pertama Universiti Multimedia.
