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*Up-Close*

**AND  
PERSONAL**

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**DR. MOHAMMAD  
ZULFAKHAIRI MOKTHAR**

# From Beauty Queen to Academic Pursuits

## The Story of Dato' Dania



Dato' Wahadaniah Abdul Wahab, also known as Dato' Dania, is a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) student at the Faculty of Business and Management (FBM), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). In addition to her academic pursuits, she holds the esteemed position of the Vice President of Government Relations at Limkokwing University. With extensive experience and high standards, she has held various roles at Limkokwing University, including Principal Lecturer, Executive Assistant to the President, and Vice President in different capacities.

Dato' Dania is recognized for her discipline and dedication to maintaining an organized work culture. She embodies a captivating blend of intelligence, warmth, grace, and allure, reminiscent of a genuine beauty queen. Unsurprisingly, she was crowned Mrs. Fabulous Malaysia 2019, showcasing her remarkable qualities.

With a grand vision of uplifting women to new heights, Dato' Dania has inspired fellow women striving for success. Despite the demands of her career, Dato' Dania seized every opportunity to pursue her studies for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree at FBM UiTM. At her age, she remains resolute in pursuing her education.

Reflecting on her journey toward obtaining a PhD, she expressed,

***"I should have pursued my doctorate in 2006 when I was a part-time lecturer in the United Kingdom. However, due to some circumstances, I had to return to Malaysia and put my studies on hold. Presently, I am honored to be able to continue my studies at FBM, UiTM."***

Dato' Dania responded when asked about her motivation to pursue further studies despite already having a successful career:

***"This is my lifelong dream, and despite not being able to complete my study in the UK, I attempted to pursue it through long-distance learning, but unfortunately, I was unable to finish. However, this time, I am determined to challenge myself at UiTM. Now, I am ready to regain my confidence and prove to myself that I can succeed this time."***

When inquired regarding her decision to choose FBM UiTM, Dato' Dania explained that her motivation was rooted in her aspiration to impact the Malay community positively. Additionally, she was influenced by a colleague's perspective that the success of a PhD largely depends on the quality of supervisors. This insight inspired Dato' Dania to seek a competent supervisor, leading her to Dr. Mohd Najib Md Saad. With his extensive industry experience, profound research knowledge, and business expertise, Dato' Dania discovered the ideal mentor for her studies. Moreover, her decision to join UiTM was influenced by her involvement in an empowering project as a woman. She takes great pride in witnessing and having the opportunity to meet the first female Vice Chancellor of UiTM.

***"With 18 years of experience in private education, I strongly believe UiTM is an exceptional institution for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Kudos to the Faculty, led by Dean Prof Dr Firdaus Abdullah, for their outstanding performance and commitment to student development. The Dean's industry experience elevated the university's status among renowned public institutions."***

***"Having leaders with industry backgrounds is crucial for ongoing success. The faculty's tireless efforts ensure students receive skills and knowledge to excel in their fields. Congratulations on their exemplary performance and dedication, which positively impact students' careers."***

***"The progress made by the Faculty of Business and Management is inspiring. With their continued dedication, the university will flourish and produce exceptional graduates who contribute to the industry and nation. Congratulations to the Faculty and esteemed Dean for fostering excellence in education."***

Dato' Dania is Malaysia's WORLDSTAR Goodwill Ambassador and will participate in the World Championship of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Anaheim, California, from July 28th to August 6th, 2023.

When questioned about the delicate balance between her career, studies, and family, the woman hailing from Kuala Lumpur imparted,

***"Being a devoted servant of Allah SWT, a single mother, a daughter, and a career-driven woman, I understand the paramount importance of upholding stringent time management and unwavering discipline. We mustn't squander a single minute of our life; it's crucial for women today to excel at multitasking. For instance, when I'm at work, my undivided attention and time are dedicated to resolving the company's administrative affairs and devising strategic plans. The same holds for my time at home. These two aspects of my life cannot be intermingled. My family holds paramount importance; numerous achievements would not have been possible without them."***

"On this particular occasion, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the gracious Dr. Nur Zahidah Bahrudin and Dr. Nor Zawani Mamat@Ibrahim for their extraordinary kindness and support during the interview. Their exceptional guidance and expertise have been invaluable to me. Thanks to their unwavering encouragement, I am truly honored and privileged to have the opportunity to be highlighted in SOCENTIUM."

**Thank you FBM!**





Thank You

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