Khaled hails achievement, believes better results to come

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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia’s top local universities’ improved ranking in the Times Higher Education-QS (THE-QS) World University Rankings 2018 is an achievement to be proud of, said Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

“It is something to be proud of that a number of Malaysian institutions have attained such high positions in the rankings. I believe that our local universities will improve even further in the years to come,” he told The Star.

Asked about the drop of the rank-

“UM fully supports the ministry in realising the national aspiration of having one or more of Malaysia’s universities in the top 200 of the THE-QS ranking by 2018,” he said.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Shamsuddin Haji Embong said the improvement in the ranking was a collective effort.

“We have worked very hard by consolidating our research, publishing our work, having more international collaborations and monitoring the number of citations per month,” she said.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) vice-chancellor Prof Dato' Dr Nik Mustapha Raja Abdullah said UPM improved by overcoming weaknesses identified through analyses of the previous years’ results.

There have been improvements in several areas including the number of papers published in high impact journals, increase in citations and aggressive internationalisation programmes,” he said.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) vice-chancellor Prof Dato' Dr Zaini Ulin said the university had improved in three of the six criteria used to compile the rankings.