

PRIME NEWS

First foreigner to get PhD from UMS

TOP CLASS: Zelzy's confidence in Universiti Malaysia Sabah pays off

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KRISTY INUS
KOTA KINABALU
kristy@nst.com.my

THE first foreign Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) graduate and a husband-and-wife team graduating together were among the highlights at this year's Universiti Malaysia Sabah's convocation.

Dr Zelzy Shahar Al-Johary, 45, who was a lecturer from Universiti Brunei Darrusalam (UBD) in Brunei, became the first foreigner to attain the doctorate from UMS during the convocation's first session on Saturday.

The father of seven said he was a full-time student in this university and spent nearly four years to complete his doctorate on education management, in particular working on a paper on the relevance of the teachers' training programme in the university he taught before.

"Like other countries, I felt that Brunei was also going through a transformation in its education sector and thought it was time to research on the relevant pro-



Dr Zelzy Shahar Al-Johary was a full-time student at the university

grammes for teachers in my country," he said.

Zelzy said he chose UMS to undertake his PhD because he had confidence in the supervisors here to assist him in his thesis, and he was not the only one in his family to show preference for this university.

"My wife is currently doing her Master's here on Jawi writing and my second child is also pursuing a degree here in sociology."

Zelzy plans to return as a lecturer at UBD.

Meanwhile, Semporna couple Dr Abdul Jawi Abnoh Sawi, 44, and wife Norisa Samutu, 43, could not be happier as they graduated together.

Both teachers of SMK Datuk Panglima Abdullah in Semporna, Jawi got his PhD in education management while Norisa graduated in Master's in Education (Curriculum and Lessons Design).

They had to undergo a difficult time and spend time away from each other because Jawi pursued the doctorate as a full-time student and had to go back and forth between Kota Kinabalu and Semporna on a weekly basis.

"It was all worth it because we get to share this happy moment together now," they said.

Jawi said he would continue as a teacher at SMK Datuk Panglima Abdullah while waiting for a new posting from the ministry.



Semporna couple Dr Abdul Jawi Abnoh Sawi and Norisa Samutu could not be happier as they graduated together. Pix by Edmund Samunting