

# Heartbreak for dad of grad who dies before convocation

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**KOTA KINABALU:** For the father of a graduate who had died in a road accident, it was heartbreaking having to go on stage to receive the degree on his behalf during the morning session of the 14th convocation ceremony at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Chancellor's Hall yesterday.

Molinka Buling, 52, from Kampung Salimpodon Darat Pitas was overcome with emotion when he represented his son Meklose Molinka who died in a June motorbike accident in his village.

Meklose, the fourth child in a family of six siblings, was on his way home from a football game with friends when the motorcycle he was riding collided with a car.

Meklose, who earned a degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, was scheduled to receive his scroll on the second day of the convocation yesterday.

"When my son's name was called out, I could not walk properly, I could not even hold back my tears because I am supposed to be seated with the parents to witness him receiving his degree. It is very painful, but he is now gone, to a better place.

"I am hoping he had watched me receiving the honour on his behalf. It was a relief for our family because we have been waiting for this moment after he passed away.

"Now, we have his degree as a remembrance. May his soul rest in peace," said Molinka who was accompanied by his daughter Norlina Molinka.

Meanwhile, among the more than 1,500 graduates receiving their scrolls with pride and joy yesterday was Mohamad Hanif Kasim, who went on stage on a wheelchair.

Hanif, 22, from Sandakan, received his Bachelor of Computer Science with Honours. Though it was not his first option, his interest in computer saw him taking the Network and System Management programme.

Hanif said it takes a lot of confidence and courage for a disabled person to face the challenges in attaining a high education.



Molinka with his son's degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Seen with him is daughter Norlina.



Hanif with his supportive parents and siblings after receiving his Bachelor of Computer Science with Honours at the UMS Convocation yesterday.

"It is not easy, but I am thankful to the UMS management and also my roommates who have been very helpful to me in the past three years in UMS," he said.

"I want to cherish this happy moment with my parents and siblings who are here with me to witness my memorable moment. I am hoping more disabled people will have the confidence and

courage to pursue their learning in order to train others one day," he said.

With a CGPA of 2.95, Hanif is planning to pursue a Masters degree, as he aspires to be a lecturer and hopes to inspire fellow disabled people to seek a high education.

A total of 1,550 graduates received their scrolls yesterday, 826 in the morning and 724 at the