

# First class degree graduate cites mother as inspiration

BP 23.10.2012 A5

**KOTA KINABALU:** When her lecturer asked all the students to write their goals upon entering university on a piece of paper, Nur Thara Atikah Zainal wrote "I want to receive a first class degree" on the first day of her Bachelor of Business With Honours class.

The last child of three siblings said she was very confident to achieve the high level of qualification as her brother who is also a Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) alumni, received the same award a few years back.

"Today, I am proud walking on stage to receive my first class degree and share it with my mother who is my greatest inspiration.

"I am thankful for the support from my family, including my fiance who has been very helpful to send me to class, going around to help me with my studies, and to comfort me when I needed comforting. Both my achievements today I want to share with them," said Nur Thara who also received the Anugerah Pelajaran DiRaja for Bumiputera candidates.

It was tough for her, especially in her second semester as she was not listed in the dean's choice. However, it never stopped her from studying hard and kept improving her result.

With 3.76 of CGPA, she is currently pursuing her Masters at UMS, hoping to be a lecturer in the future after completing her PhD.

Nur Thara admitted that she was not a straight As student. She was not the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) best student for SM St Francis



Nur Thara

Convent, but she started realising the importance of having good results when she entered SM La Salle for the Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) examination.

After collecting a CGPA of 3.67 points in STPM, Nur Thara was very happy because she had sacrificed a matriculation course after SPM. She really wanted to pursue STPM and it paid off with her achievement.

Nur Thara was the students' representative to deliver a speech during the final day of the 14th convocation ceremony at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Chancellor's Hall yesterday.

A total of 1,466 students received their scrolls yesterday, including Nur Thara who marked the closing ceremony on behalf of the graduates.