

# Mother of five, graduates with daughter

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**KOTA KINABALU:** "Age is no barrier to success", says Ananglangka Md Kassim, 55, who is one of the 16 doctorate graduates.

What is most heartening for this mother of five children was this Universiti Malaysia Sabah convocation (UMS) this time, she shared her joy with her daughter, Nuradieana Afiza Abd Hamid, 26, who also graduated with a Bachelor of Education in Economics degree.

"When I received my Master's degree in Psychology Counseling in 2005, I shared the joy with my son Andie Azizan, who received his Bachelor Business with Honours (Financial Management and Banking).

"This is my satisfaction as a mother to be able to educate my children to achieve academic levels expected by every parents and to be together with them to celebrate their success," she said, when met after the convocation ceremony at the UMS, Chancellor Hall, here, on Tuesday.

Ananglangka, who works as a school counselor at SMK Perempuan

Likas, has received several invitations to give motivational talks around the country.

Recounting memories about the 1960s, she said, most parents in the village prefer to encourage their daughters to do work at home like cooking, but my parents encouraged us to go to school and study hard.

"My parents saw education is very beneficial because with education a person can seek employment with better wages to improve the economic standard of the family.

"Both my parents had a hard life, so I was all the more determined to study hard with one goal that is to improve our standard of living ... as long as I possess this spirit, I will continue to learn, guide and encourage children to achieve higher education levels so that they can get better jobs," she said.

The 13th UMS Convocation also created its own history when twin sisters, Sharifah Rozhiah and Sharifah Rodhiah Syed Mohamad, 32, both graduated with Master of Education (Educational Management) on the same day.

The twin sisters from Tawau, born

within an interval of two hours, said, it is not easy to achieve success much less if you are a career-driven mother.

"Of course, there are many challenges besides managing the children and undertaking our daily responsibilities as a teacher while at the same time being a student. What is important is that we must be smart enough to apportion our time for family, study and work," said Rodhiah.

Royal Student awardee, Chong Pui Lai, who received her Bachelor in Agricultural Science with Honours (Crop Production), said her success has been the result of the support and encouragement of her parents.

"I never aimed to win the Royal Student Award, as what matters to me was to stay focused in class to enable me to review the lesson," said the second child of three brothers and sisters.

Chong, who hails from Ipoh, said she chose agriculture because this sector is one of the most important in the field of food production to the world community.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Arif, 25, who graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree, said, the convocation is a sym-



Ananglangka and her daughter, Nuradieana.

bol of success for the graduates and it does not signify the end of the struggle to continue learning.

"For me, this is the starting point to continue to strive and struggle to improve myself at a higher level. There is no success without sacrifice. I believe that without the sacrifice of

families, particularly parents, no matter how high our efforts, the likelihood of success enjoyed today would be difficult to achieve in view of the many challenges," said Mohamed, who now works as a Medical Officer at the Women and Children Hospital in Likas.