

Cancer survivor graduates from UMS

By Shalina R. BP 20.11.2017 1

KOTA KINABALU: Cancer survivor Rohany Gabi almost took her own life during her fight to overcome cancer.

"I had no reason to live, to fight the cancer and continue to live because I had little support from friends, family, the people around me," Rohany confessed.

"Some of my family members told me that it was better that I had died at birth so that I would not burden them today. I felt extremely down," she recalled.

But the moment she took off her oxygen mask was the turning point of her recovery.

"At that moment, I felt someone talking to me. I heard God," she said.

"I must continue living," she thought at that time.

Rohany believed she was still alive because of God's will and her faith saw her through hardship, when the people around her started to distance themselves from her and when her already impoverished family went through tumultuous life events.

"Today I live for my family, myself and society," she said.

As the first university graduate among six siblings, Rohany who was on crutches following an operation on her fractured leg in September proudly went on stage yesterday to receive her Bachelor of Social Science with Honors (History) during the 19th Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Convocation ceremony in the presence of her two

sisters.

The Keningau lass was diagnosed with end stage bone cancer when she was only 12 in May 2004.

The youngest child knew she was sick with cancer but was only told that her condition was terminal after the doctor announced that she was cancer-free in December 2013.

She was away from her home at Kampung Bunga Raya in Keningau and lived most of those nine years in the Keningau Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Sarawak General Hospital, losing hair from chemotherapy, having the cancer cells spreading to her right lungs and diaphragm. Adding to her suffering, she lost her father two years after she was diagnosed with cancer.

The former SMK Keningau 2 student never sat for UPSR and PMR examinations because of her condition and a friend had even accidentally caused her leg to fracture in class in 2011.

"Never lose hope and faith. Keep thinking positively, never give up, and keep fighting till the end for God loves you.

"The times when we feel the most hardship, remember that out there there are people suffering more than what we are experiencing.

"The moment we let go, we waste something that other people out there are crying, praying and hoping to have. So treasure every breath of life, space and chance given by God," said Rohany, who looks forward to recuperate from the surgery for three to five months.



Rohany (right) with fellow graduate and recipient of the UMS Award, Zainal Abidin Bador Kelly Jauding during the 19th UMS Convocation 2017 Ceremony yesterday.