

Florists bloom along with convocation

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KOTA KINABALU: Flower bouquets have become synonymous with graduation day in Malaysia, which 46-year-old florist, Junie Kamijan warmly welcomes.

She has been selling flowers for convocations at UMS and other colleges over the last three years.

Having previously worked in a bank, she now enjoys selling and arranging flowers because nothing brings her

greater joy than to see the smiles on her customers' faces.

Junie also makes good money selling the bouquets.

"I set up a booth to sell flowers here in UMS and can earn at least RM1000 in a day," she said.

"Everyday, we sell about 200 fresh flowers and 200 artificial flowers and by the end of the day, we nearly sell every flower we have," she said referring to the UMS

convocation ceremony.

Her prices range from RM5 up to RM100 depending on the types of flowers.

Fresh roses are the biggest selling items at her booth.

"But the artificial flowers don't do so bad either. Some people prefer flowers that last a long time to remind them of their graduation while others buy fresh flowers because they smell nice," she said.

She also sells lilies and teddy bears.

"Some people say flowers and teddy bears are for girls, but that is not true," she said adding that every graduate deserves a beautiful flower and a cute teddy bear as a gift.

Junie is now a full-time florist and currently runs a florist shop called Trineity Floral in Kepayan together with her close friend. - By THERENES VOO.