

Rozhan Annuar realises dream after difficult years

star 12/10/03

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KUALA LUMPUR: Following his father's stroke in 1991, filial piety and a deep love for his family led Rozhan Annuar Abdullah to put his dreams on hold and abandon plans to study overseas.

He had to give up his place at the University of St Louis, Missouri, to help care for his ailing father, Datuk Abdullah Majid, former press secretary to Tun Abdul Razak and also former Deputy Labour Minister in Tun Hussein Onn's Cabinet.

"Family must always come first and be the main priority no matter what. Personal ambitions can wait," said the 36-year-old, who worked as a temporary English and Arts teacher at SM Dong in Raub, Pahang, for seven years.

Despite these difficulties, Rozhan Annuar never gave up

on his desire to complete his degree, and 12 years later, that dream was realised when he obtained his Bachelor of Business Administration at Universiti Tun Abdul Razak's (Unitar) third convocation yesterday.

Rozhan Annuar, who also received the book prize award in marketing, had to hold back tears as he spoke after the ceremony.

His whole family attended the ceremony, including his 78-year-old wheelchair-bound father.

Held at Dewan Perdana Felda, the ceremony saw a total of 241 graduates receiving their scrolls from Unitar Chancellor Tun Rahah Mohd Noah, widow of Tun Abdul Razak.

Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, special economic advisor to the Prime Minister, was also conferred an honorary doctorate in economics, while Mimos Berhad president and

chief executive officer Datuk Dr Tengku Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen received an honorary doctorate in information technology.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Nor Mohamed said the positive values of service and self-sacrifice portrayed by the late Tun Razak should be rekindled among the youth.

"When Tun Razak knew he had only two more years to live, he did not stop to think about himself but continued to serve the country," he said.

Nor Mohamed added that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's 22 years of service to the country was another shining example of someone who was sincere and had a strong capacity for hard work.

At yesterday's ceremony, former Chief Secretary Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid was also appointed Unitar's first pro-chancellor.