

Tajuk : Dad's sacrifice reaps reward

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## LOVE UNLIMITED:

He quit job to care for disabled daughter, who graduates with a masters

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**T**WENTY years ago, Ngu Ee Kiong was forced to quit his job as a lorry driver to care for his daughter, who suffers from spinal muscular atrophy.

Due to her medical condition, Ngu Nyok Ping, now 28, is wheelchair-bound and depends on the assistance of others to move around.

As Nyok Ping was too heavy for her mother to carry around, Ngu had to juggle between sending his daughter to school and selling *kuih* at markets and coffee shops to eke out a living.

However, his sacrifices paid off when Nyok Ping graduated with a master's in economics and business from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) here yesterday.

"I cannot walk. My hands could not carry anything that weighed more than 5kg.

"But my family, especially my parents, continued giving me endless encouragement.

"My father made many sacrifices for me because he is a responsible person.

"He quit his previous job as a lorry driver and resorted to selling *kuih* to attend to my needs.

"My father never neglected my other siblings," said Nyok Ping, who is the third among five children.

Yesterday's occasion was extra

memorable for Nyok Ping's family.

Her younger sister, Nyok Hua, 26, also graduated, but with a master's in corporate business administration studies.

The two sisters were among 4,276 graduates at Unimas's 20th convocation ceremony, which was officiated by Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Taib Mahmud.

"I'm happy," said Ngu after the ceremony.

"However, when I think about how tough the journey was and the difficulties that my daughter had to face, I'm still sad."

Earlier in his speech, Taib said the rural community in Sarawak was not neglected by the state government, and that equal attention had been given to the youths in providing quality education.

"What can benefit the rural community and bring them forward is education.

"I believe that education is the most powerful tool to eradicate poverty.

"Thus, (when I was the Chief Minister), the state government was committed to further developing the education industry and ensuring children, even those in the rural areas, could enjoy quality education," he said.

As a result of the state government's unrelenting efforts, Taib said, many students from the villages and longhouses were able to further their education at universities.

At the ceremony, former deputy chief minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang was awarded an honorary doctorate (Transformation of Rural Community) for his contribution in improving the livelihood of rural folk.

Present during the ceremony was Unimas vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi.



**Ngu Nyok Ping, (left) and sister Ngu Nyok Hua, celebrating their achievements with parents, Ngu Ee Kiong (right) and Soo Yik Chiet, at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's 20th convocation in Kota Samarahan yesterday. Pic by Che Rani Che Din**