



A Mother's Unconditional Love



Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s 5th Convocation was a joyous and historical moment for its 1,030 graduates. However, it was the most celebrated occasion for Siti Hawa Apani, 21.

She is physically impaired but she stood tall among her peers upon receiving her scroll during the convocation held on October 9, 2010.

The convocation was graced by UMP's Chancellor His Highness Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Tengku Mahkota Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah.

Siti Hawa has *Spinal Muscular Atrophy* (SMA),

a neuromuscular disease characterised by degeneration of motor neurons, resulting in progressive muscular atrophy (wasting away) and weakness.

She has SMA since small and is unable to move. Due to her condition Siti Hawa has to be fully depended on her mother, Zaidah Tamjis, 47.

However, the plucky young lady was a very competitive student and this was reflected in her being named in the dean's list several times.

Siti Hawa's CGPA for the final semester was 3.79.

She is one who does not wallow in self-pity and is determined not to let her disability to be a stumbling block in her pursuit of academic excellence.