

SERVING PEOPLE

# HARD WORK PAYS OFF FOR 3 AT UUM

The public figures receive master's degrees after years of perseverance

ILI SHAZWANI  
SINTOK  
shazwani.ihsan@nst.com.my

**J**UGGLING tight schedules between their duties towards their families, studies and work paid off for three public figures who received their master's degrees at the second session of Universiti Utara Malaysia's (UUM) 30th convocation yesterday.

National Cooperative Movement of Malaysia Bhd (Angkasa) president Datuk Abdul Fattah Abdullah, Kangar member of parliament Shahrudin Ismail and former senator Datuk Muhammad Olian Abdullah can

smile with pride after burning the midnight oil for two years to complete their Master of Public Management courses.

The trio shared the same aspirations in furthering their studies, which was to give back to their communities through their findings.

Fattah hoped his thesis, titled "Competency in School Cooperatives Management", could be used as a reference not only for Angkasa, but other agencies and ministries, to boost the competency of school cooperatives and contribute to the country's growth.

He said his thesis was in line with Angkasa's target for at least 50 school cooperatives to hit a turnover of more than RMI million by 2020.

"This was the third university in which I enrolled for a master's course, but I completed my course this time thanks to UUM and my supervisor's flexibility in

consultation sessions and research matters.

"Despite my having to burn the midnight oil and use whatever free time I had for my research, it was worth my while as I can share my knowledge and experience for others," he said.

As for Shahrudin, his thesis, which focused on electrical consumption among Perlis' people, helped him to better understand the subject, and he is planning to spread awareness of the matter to people in that state, especially in his parliamentary area.

He said the issues covered in his thesis included how to save electrical consumption by up to 40 per cent.

Olian, who used to represent the Orang Asli in the Dewan Negara, believed in education as a weapon to change society.

He chose his project topic, centred on the impact of the Orang Asli's participation in the com-



Universiti Utara Malaysia vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak (second from left) speaking with recipients of the Master of Public Management, National Cooperative Movement of Malaysia Bhd president Datuk Abdul Fattah Abdullah (left), Kangar member of parliament Shahrudin Ismail (second from right) and former senator Datuk Muhammad Olian Abdullah at the second session of Universiti Utara Malaysia's 30th convocation yesterday. PIC BY SHARUL HAFIZ ZAM

mercial rubber and oil palm replanting project, to look into allegations that the government project was a failure.

"I discovered that the allegations were baseless, after researching the topic since 2015. I wish to shed light on the matter," he said.

The member of the Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority's (Risda) board of directors reached his conclusions based on research on how

the livelihoods of the Orang Asli in some parts of the country had improved, in terms of their houses, earnings, lifestyle and vehicle possessions, after they took part in the project.

The trio were among 642 graduates who received their master's degree scrolls from university pro-chancellor Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Sultan Abdul Halim Muadzam Shah at the ceremony yesterday.