



**Moving speech:** Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin addressing the graduates during the morning session of the 45th USM convocation ceremony at the university's main campus in Penang.

# Royal advice on filial piety

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TS/22.4.12/12/1/PI Perlis-mng

**GEORGE TOWN:** A hush fell over the Dewan Tuanku Syed Putra in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) when its chancellor, the Raja of Perlis, reminded new graduates to appreciate and care for their parents.

In his speech, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail recounted a story he read in the newspapers about an educated, young couple who abandoned an elderly father in a dialysis clinic in Perlis.

"They brought the father to be treated at a clinic in Kangar, and told him that they would pick him up again later when his treatment was over.

"The father waited until 8pm and when the clinic was closing, the caretakers there saw he had not eaten anything from morning. He told them that he was waiting for his children to fetch him home.

"A caretaker read a note that was left on the man and it said, '*Sila bawa orang tua ini ke pejabat welfare.* (Please take this old man to the welfare office)," he said in his speech at the first session of USM's 45th convocation cere-

mony yesterday.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin added that he also heard of two similar cases — one where the children abandoned their mother at a hotel and another where the mother was left in a toilet.

Everyone in the hall were on the edge of their seats as they listened to the ruler relating the stories of irresponsible children.

Several parents in the audience were also seen wiping away tears.

"My advice to you is to practise the eastern culture and appreciate family values.

"We must protect the good name of our parents, look after their welfare, honour them and not allow them to lead a hard and miserable life.

"Congratulations on your achievement. After this, kiss your parents' hands. Give them a hug and promise to take care of them properly," he said.

A total of 941 graduates and undergraduates received their scrolls yesterday.

Tan Sri Datuk Prof Emeritus D. Gajaraj and Prof Fun Hoong Kun were also awarded with an honorary Doctorate in Education and the title Professor Emeritus respectively.