Press Digest

by Kong See Hoh

newsdesk@thesundaily.com



Student lodges report against UPM guards

A STUDENT of Universiti Putra Malaysia who twice aborted attempts to make police reports on Saturday for the return of his laptop, handphone and other belongings seized by the university's security personnel, lodged a report vesterday.

Earlier in the day, worried that data in his laptop and handphone might be compromised, first-year student Yee Yang Yang ignored security officer Mej Othman Jailani's suggestion that he show the gadgets did not contain smut or material defamatory to the government and the university. Othman made the suggestion as a condition for the return of his belongings.

Yee aborted his first two attempts to lodge reports after the campus security unit assured him it would return his belongings on Monday when satisfied that the laptop did not contain materials

that are pornographic or deemed anti-establishment.

According to a report in Sin Chew Daily, Yee, accompanied by two other students, had an hour-long stand-off with Othman on Monday when the latter refused to release the seized items unless Yang disclosed the password to his laptop and security code for his handphone.

Yee told reporters outside the campus security office that he was worried security personnel might have accessed his password looked at files stored in the laptop.

He did not discount the possibility of files having been deleted, altered or added in his absence

Yee said the laptop contained course work and the actions of the security personnel had affected his preparations for an impending exam, adding that his parents in Sabah had called to express their shock at news-

paper reports on the incident.

On Friday night, plainclothes security personnel removed Yee's belongings, which included an MP4, from his hostel room, on the pretext of investigating a phone theft.

However, he was later quizzed on his involvement in student politics.

Yee claimed security personnel had infringed on his privacy, not having observed procedure in the seizure of his belongings.

The paper said the incident smacks of intimidation in the run-up to campus elections as Yee is said to be "anti-establishment". A number of students at the Serdang campus deemed to be such were said to have been subjected to harassment of late.

The Barisan Mahasiswa Bersatu student body has lodged police • reports over several incidents involving UPM students.