

Headline 'Justice not served'
Date 29. Jan 2008
Media Title The Star
Section Nation
Circulation 293375
Readership 1026812

Language ENGLISH
Page No N22
Article Size 188 cm2
Frequency Daily
Color Full Color



'Justice not served'

Undergrad may go to court over UPM appeal decision

BY FLORENCE A. SAMY
florenceasamy@thstar.com.my

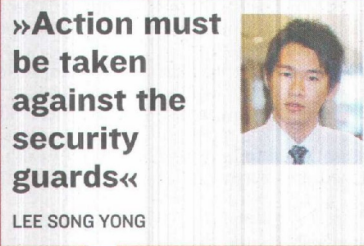
PETALING JAYA: A university student, who was suspended after refusing to allow campus security to check his bag, has won his appeal to return to school.

However, Lee Song Yong did not get off scot-free as he was given a stern warning by the Higher Education Ministry and Universiti Putra Malaysia officials and was required to pay a RM200 fine.

"They told me the disciplinary conviction stays as I am still guilty, although I did not do anything wrong.

"The sad part is no action was taken against the security guards despite many complaints from students," he said when contacted yesterday.

Lee, who refused to allow the security guards to check his bag containing a laptop, was given a one-semester suspension by UPM's disciplinary body last November.



He had submitted an appeal to the Higher Education Ministry via UPM in early December to which the Ministry replied on Jan 3. Lee then received his letter from UPM on Jan 9 informing him of the outcome of his appeal.

"They wanted to check my bag without explanation.

"I would have allowed them if they had given me a reason as there were cases where

students' belongings were confiscated for no reason," said the computer science undergraduate.

Lee, 21, said he was considering going to court to have a judicial review of the appeal decision.

"I have to clear my name. Justice was not served. Action must be taken against the security guards for not following procedure and for violating students' rights," he added.

Lee had lodged a police report against the security guards on Aug 22 for alleged abuse of power and attended a UPM disciplinary hearing two months later.

He and several student body representatives also sought the help of Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam), opposition parties and MPs in a bid to overturn the suspension.

"The semester started on Dec 24. I have missed three weeks of school and have one week to catch up before the first test," he added.