

UPM to look into students' forced labour claims

SERDANG: Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) will form a committee to look into a police report lodged by 15 students claiming that one of their lecturers forced them to work as volunteers for an opposition party in the general election.

UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan said the committee would consist of three professors and a legal adviser.

He said the university had always strived to remain neutral in line with the Universities and University Colleges Act.

It was reported yesterday that the group of students had accused the lecturer, who holds a post in an opposition party, of threatening to fail any student who refused to help put up banners and carry out other campaigning duties since classes started in early February.

The 15 students, who declined to be named, alleged that they were also subjected to threats and made to work without pay by the lecturer.