

Remains of UMS lecturer expected to arrive today

Larissa Lumandan

KOTA KINABALU: The remains of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) TESL lecturer, Ng Shi Ing, are expected to arrive in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday (Aug 23), said Faculty Psychology and Education Deacon Professor Dr Ismail Ibrahim.

"According to the message sent by Ng's husband via WhatsApp, Ng's remains had been found and might arrive tomorrow. However, I'm not sure about their one-year-old toddler, Benjamin Ng Lee Jian. I hope that Benjamin's remains will be found soon," he said.

According to him, Ng had previously attended the 15th International CALL Research Conference at Antwerp University in Belgium as part of her job to present a paper work.

"Ng, in less than three years of her service, had been involved in several research projects worth not less than RM480,000 and five of her researches had been completed," he said, adding that Ng had produced five journal articles, five chapters in a book and more than 10 articles which had already been uploaded on Prosidings.

Besides that, she had also participated in international conferences in Ahmedabad, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Beijing, China, Taiwan and finally at University of Antwerp in Belgium.

"As the Head of Department, I find it difficult to have her replaced," he said, adding that all her belongings are still at the office and will only be tidied after getting her husband's consent.

Ismail said this during the National Mourning Day for all those involved in the ill-fated MH17 flight held at the faculty's hall here, Friday.

Ng's sister, Elisabeth Ng Lyeti, who accompanied her during their trip, also perished after the flight they boarded was shot down in eastern Ukraine on July 17. Elisabeth's cremated remains had arrived from the Netherlands in Kuala Lumpur earlier on Friday (Aug 22) and will be laid to rest in Muar, Johor.

Meanwhile, Ng's neighbour cum colleague Associate Professor Mat Zin Mat Kib also expressed his grief and condolence to Ng's family.

"I am very sad for the loss of Ng as she lived opposite my house. She was a friendly woman and a good neighbour, as we would greet each other every morning. I would also see her drying clothes outside her house compound and she would ask me whether I had eaten," he said, adding that they had been neighbours for about three years.

"She was one of my academic friends and we often exchanged our opinions. I have lost a good friend, an academic friend and a neighbour," he added, stating that it would be a great challenge faced by her husband. According to Mat, Ng had also decided to spend time with her husband and son at the park before leaving Malaysia on July 5.

"As far as I know, Ng was not a type of person who would go out. It surprised me when I saw her going to the park enjoying the scenery of lakes and trees while playing with her son," he



Ismail



Joan



Grace and Jaclyn (right).



UMS staff and students lining up to pay their last respects to Ng.

said, claiming to have met Ng's husband only twice since the fatal incident.

There were rumours that Ng's husband, Lieutenant Commander Lee Vee Weng, a Royal Malaysian Navy officer in Sepanggar, had decided to transfer to Lumut, Perak.

Former students during the event also took opportunities to pay their last respects to Ng.

UMS TESL Master's student, Joan James, also claimed that Ng, throughout being her lecturer had inspired her a lot.

"She was a very happy-go-lucky lecturer. She didn't give us students a lot of stress in her class," she said, adding that she could not accept the fact that Ng is no longer around.

"I am a research assistant and my office is opposite hers. Now that I see her room empty, I find it tough to accept that she is gone and I was in denial for about a month," she said.

"It was until last night when I dreamt of her and felt her presence that I decided to accept that she is gone and I believe she is now in a better place," James added.

Final year TESL students, Jaclyn Lau and Grace Law, who were former students of Ng, also said that Ng had inspired them especially in helping those who were in need.

"She was strict but yet helpful in a way that she would give us ideas. She believed in us more than we could believe in ourselves," they explained.