

Rejected because of mixed parentage

PRESS DIGEST

> She fails to get job despite holding master's degree in forensic science

BY KONG SEE HOH
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

A MALAYSIAN who obtained a master's degree in forensic science from an Australian university was twice rejected in her applications for government jobs, *Nanyang Siang Pau* reported yesterday.

The reason, according to the mother of Arniza Khairani Mohd Jamil, 24, was because she is of mixed parentage and her mother a Chinese.

Dian Lai Abdullah told a press conference that her daughter, a University of Western Sydney graduate, recently looked for a job at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital and was told that she would not be accepted unless her mother dies or divorces her Malay father.

Her job application with the Perlis Police Academy in February was equally frustrating. The officers told her they could not hire her as her mother is a Chinese, said the report.

Accompanied by Dian, Arniza sought the help of Federal Territory MCA liaison committee last Wednesday. Dian related her daughter's encounters at a press conference held by the committee on Tuesday.

Dian alleged that the officers at the police academy told her daughter, "we don't take, you are a Chinese".

"The (officers at the Kuala Lumpur) hospital also told Arniza it would not accept Chinese. It would not consider accepting her unless I divorce



Arniza shows her MyKad during the press conference.

her father," said Dian.

"I was very angry, they did not even look at her certificates. They only looked at her mother's skin colour.

"I explained to them my daughter is a bumiputra of Malay-Chinese parentage, and was hoping that while waiting for the result of her

application for a scholarship to further her studies, she could work here to gain some practical knowledge. I told them my daughter would not mind even if she doesn't get paid, but they still would not take her."

Dian said despite her further explanation, the hospital authorities rejected Arniza, citing security reasons.

"I don't know what security reasons they were talking about as they rejected my daughter without further explanation."

She said a friend who works in the police force had advised her to "forget about it".

"I have written to (prime minister's wife) Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor's secretary, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil as well as Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin," Dian said, adding that she has yet to get a reply.

Arniza said she intended to read for a doctorate and had approached the police academy and hospital for work while awaiting her applications for a scholarship as well as admission for the PhD programme.

"I was accepted by Queensland University of Technology but missed the enrolment on Sept 14 because I failed to get a government scholarship."

She said the university has agreed to allow her to join the programme at its next intake but she must come up with about A\$200,000 (RM640,000) needed for the course.

Federal Territory iMalaysia MCA Task Force deputy chief Frankie Gan Joon Zin said he would write to the police academy and hospital with copies of the letters addressed to the prime minister and MCA chief.

Road safety education in secondary schools next year

PUTRAJAYA: Road safety education will be made a curriculum in secondary schools beginning next year after it was introduced in primary schools since 2007, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha.

He said this was part of the government effort to educate the people to be more courteous on the road and at the same time reduce the number of road accidents.

In April 2007, the Road Safety Department (RSD), in collaboration with the Education Ministry, had introduced road safety education which was absorbed into the Bahasa Melayu subject, beginning with 1,000 selected primary schools. — Bernama

Loan shark harasses family over RM344,000

ALOR STAR: A man thought he was doing his two colleagues a favour by standing guarantor for a RM344,000 loan which they obtained from a loan shark last year. The colleagues displayed their 'gratitude' by not only failing to service the loan, but also by disappearing, leaving the good samaritan in the lurch.

Early this month, the guarantor's family residing in Taman Saga Phase II, had a taste of the loan shark's wrath.

Thugs despatched by the loan shark began terrorising the family. Yesterday, they hurled stones at the house, shattering a mirror on its main door and the windscreen of a car in the porch.

The guarantor's father, who wished to be known only as Lau, said yesterday although RM164,000 was paid to the loan shark, the latter insisted they pay the entire loan. — Bernama

IIUM teaching hospital is first under the PFI programme

BY AZRIL ANNUAR
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PUTRAJAYA: The International Islamic University Malaysia's (IIUM) teaching hospital in Kuantan will be the first to be funded and built under the government's private financing initiative (PFI) programme.

The project will be developed by Ahmad Zaki Resources Berhad's (AZRB) wholly-owned subsidiary Peninsular Medical Sdn Bhd (PenMedic) and is expected to cost around RM 412.62 million.

IIUM and AZRB signed the concession agreement yesterday, witnessed by Minister in Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yacop and Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

"This marks a new landmark in our initiative. For the first time we are developing a hospital through PFI," said Nor Mohamed.

"The PFI mechanism can optimise the government's resources as we can use the bulk of our money for other purposes. We can also mitigate the risk factor because the private sector will be taking the bulk of the risk.

"Under this scheme we can nullify the possibility of abandoned construction projects," he added.

Construction is expected to commence in January and the hospital is expected to be completed in June 2015. The teaching hospital will feature various medical disciplines including surgical and medical sub-specialties such as internal medicine, surgery, oncology, cardiology, neuroscience, obstetrics, gynaecology, paediatrics, among others.

It will also serve as the primary clinical and tertiary facility for IIUM's medical faculty.

The government also plans to initialise another 12 public institutions of higher learning under the PFI module.

Aspiring doctor's dreams shattered

BY PAULINE WONG
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: An aspiring doctor found herself in debt with loan sharks after enrolling at an unrecognised medical university in Romania, and is now in desperate need for money.

M.S. Syamala, 28, had borrowed RM20,000 from loan sharks at 10% interest a month to study medicine at the University of Medicine Pharmacy of GRT Popa, Romania, after she failed to secure a government loan.

"I had applied for many scholarships and loans but I was rejected as the university I chose was unrecognised," she said, adding that the university she chose was the cheapest available option to her at that time.

Her father had died when she was eight, and her mother struggled to make ends meet on a meagre salary.

However, she said she did not try to apply for a loan to study at a recognised university, because she only thought of choosing the

cheapest option she could.

"I've always dreamt of being a doctor. I applied to study medicine in local universities but was denied a place. Despite achieving 3A's for my STPM, all I was offered was computer science course in Langkawi," she said.

"So, when an agent told me that I could study medicine in Romania for less than RM150,000 in total, I took the chance, thinking I could still return to Malaysia and work after I pass the Medical Qualifying Exam (MQE)," she told a press conference at the Human Rights Party (HRP) headquarters here.

She went to Romania in 2006, and for the next five years, put herself through her studies by working in Britain during her summer holidays as a cleaner and at fast-food chains so that she could pay her yearly fees.

She is pleading for assistance to complete her studies and pay off her debts.

HRP education bureau head G. Ganesan said a letter highlighting Syamala's troubles has been sent to the Higher Education Ministry as well as the Prime Minister's Office.

2 Winners Monthly!

THE ULTIMATE MAN UTD Experience

Buy Mister Potato Man Utd Edition packs for a chance to win!*

- ★ VIP Home Tickets
- ★ Accommodation
- ★ Return Air Tickets
- ★ Old Trafford Stadium Tour
- ★ Meet and Greet Session*
- ★ Sit in Your Favourite Player's Seat in the Dressing Room!

Contest ends 31 December 2011
* Terms & conditions apply.

www.mister-potato.com
www.facebook.com/misterpotatocrisps