

# 'Chinese society will not undermine unity'

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by **Giam Say Khoon**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

Another  
20 years,  
eight  
strokes  
for rapist  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** A Chinese-language society in a university would not undermine or obstruct national unity, said Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Chinese Language Society president Wong Keen Yee.

He said the purpose of establishing a Chinese-language society was to promote the language and Chinese culture to students and the community.

Wong said that despite being an unregistered society for the past 16 years, the university allowed it to organise activities for members.

"However, for the past two years, the university has stopped us from organising campus activities for members," he told a press conference off the campus yesterday

during a campaign calling for support for the society.

He said the society tried to register with the university last August but its application was rejected two months later.

UPM's student affairs deputy vice-chancellor, Prof Dr Azali Mohamed, was quoted in the society's bulletin as saying registration was not allowed because the society was only for one race and language.

"Malaysia is a multiracial country. A race-based society would disunite the people," he was quoted as saying.

Wong said the society, which has about 200 members, welcomed all university students and was not meant for the Chinese only.

He said the society did not promote racism or cause offence but was aimed at encouraging

interaction among people to learn more about Chinese culture.

He noted that there was no proper guideline or protocol on establishing and registering a society on the campus.

"We wrote to Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed last December, and the ministry has set up a special committee to draft the guidelines," he said.

Society vice-president Ooi Tze Min urged the ministry to speed up drafting guidelines based on principles of fairness and freedom.

He said many first-year students were shunning the society because of the university's action that had made the society look "notorious".

The society's campaign to garner support will be held until next Thursday and a nationwide petition will be held on Sunday.