UMS lecturer returns today to be laid to rest

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KOTA KINABALU: The remains known as Jessie, of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) lecturer Ng Shi Ing, 33, is expected to be flown back to Malaysia today.

Dean of Psychology and Education, Prof Dr Ismail Ibrahim said Ng's husband, Lieutenant Commander Lee Vee Weng had conveyed a message to him via WhatsApp that his wife’s remains had been recovered.

Lieutenant Commander Lee is with the Submarine Unit of the Royal Malaysian Navy based in Sepanggar here.

"We understand from Jessie’s husband, through a WhatsApp message I received, that Jessie’s body has already been found and maybe it will be flown back tomorrow.

"I am not sure about her son Benjamin but hopefully he will be found very soon,” said Dr Ismail yesterday after a ceremony was held to remember Ng, fondly known as Jessie, at the mini-auditorium of the Psychology and Education Faculty in UMS. The Prime Minister had announced 22 Aug as a ‘National Day of Mourning for MH17 Victims’.

The remembrance service was also attended by Minister of Community Development and Consumer Affairs, Datuk Jaafar Ahmad, Deputty Vice Chancellor cum Head of Student Affairs and Alumni, Associate Prof Dr Ismail Ali, faculty lecturers and students.

Ng who is from Muar, Johor is the second of six siblings and obtained her degree in education from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and later a master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Edinburgh University, Scotland.

His father is a retired government hospital assistant Ng Pae Soon, 67, and her mother Tan Ah Chin, 62, is a retired teacher.

They lost two daughters and a grandson in the MH17 tragedy. Ng’s sister, Elizabeth and one-year-old son, Benjamin were travelling with her. They were among the 298 people on board Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 when it crashed in Ukraine.

Dr Ismail had visited her parents in Muar and the couple shared their grief in losing three family members in the crash.

In less than three years after joining UMS, Ng was involved in producing several research projects worth RM480,000 and completed five of her own research papers.

Ng and her colleagues’ hard work saw them winning five gold medals in the UMS Research and Innovation Competition since 2011.

At the national level, she won a gold medal at the 24th International Invention & Technology Exhibition in 2013 through her work on ‘creative personality analyser’.

She won a bronze medal at the IENA 2013 in Nuremberg, Germany through her work entitled ‘Creative and Innovative English Language Teaching through Digital Story Telling’.

Ng also participated in several national and international conferences in India, Vietnam, Thailand, China, Taiwan and the last one in University of Antwerp, Belgium just before the fateful flight.