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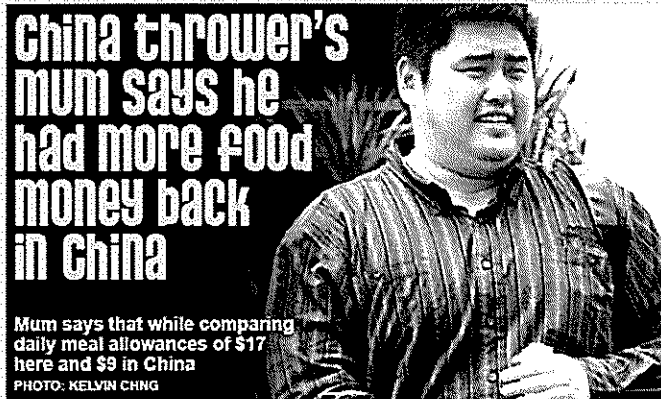


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CHINA THROWER'S MUM SAYS HE HAD MORE FOOD MONEY BACK IN CHINA

04 Dec 2009

YOU promised to give my son better food and accommodation in Singapore than what he was getting in Shanghai.

So said Madam Zhang Ping, 54, in court yesterday.

Madam Zhang and her son, China-born athlete Luan Wei, 27, are suing the Singapore Athletic Association (SAA) for allegedly breaching promises made in a 1999 agreement.

The SAA denies the promises were made and that there was any breach of contract.

One of the alleged promises was that the SAA would provide Mr Luan with food and accommodation in Singapore that would be better than what he was receiving in Shanghai – where he was training and studying – at that time.

Asked the SAA's lawyer, Mr Giam Chin Toon: "What do you mean by better than in Shanghai? You mean you don't have shark's fin in Shanghai?"

Madam Zhang said that she had been assured by SAA officials including president Loh Lin Kok that "the conditions (in Singapore) would be better than what is in Shanghai now".

Asked Mr Giam: "What did you tell him (Mr Loh) that he said, 'Don't worry, I can provide better food and accommodation.'"

What did you tell him was the standard (in Shanghai)?"

She said: "President Loh went to Shanghai to survey and when we were discussing the terms, he said this himself."

Her son, who became a Singapore permanent resident in 2003, is claiming damages for loss of opportunities that he suffered in his education and athletic career.

Four years after he arrived in Singapore, he was dropped from the scheme by the SAA after failing to meet targets set by the association.

In June 2005, he started legal action against the association.

Yesterday, the lawyer pointed out that she had mentioned different conditions in two

different documents submitted to the court.

The first was the notes of a 4 Oct 2004 meeting between Mr Luan's parents and SAA officials, which took place one month after Mr Luan's sacking. The second was Madam Zhang's affidavit in the case, filed in October last year.