

# Young arsonists taught not to respect the law, says Mahathir

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**PETALING JAYA, Mon:** Certain people should be held responsible for the recent spate of suspected arson in schools because they teach the young not to respect the law.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad believes that there are some people teaching students, including preschoolers, not to obey the law.

He is worried that if this continued, there will not be any respect for the law at all

and the government will be unable to do anything about it.

“If we do not respect the law, one day it will get out of hand.

“It looks like there are people who influence children right from preschool level.

“This has attracted many youths, especially students, to take the law into their own hands.

“When they grow up, they will become lawless,” he told a news conference on his

return from Egypt and Italy at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang today.

Mahathir said negative behaviour like arson in schools was the result of certain people starting off something which is alien to our culture.

“We have to be careful in this. The children should be made to realise the dangers of doing so.

“Sooner or later, they will start burning their houses,” he said.