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We'll try our best to save Malaysia Hall, says PM

Saiful Azhar Abdullah in London

THE Government will try its best to save Malaysia Hall for the benefit of Malaysians in the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Speaking to Malaysians, including students, at a Hari Raya gathering yesterday, he said: "It is our intention to keep Malaysia Hall in one form or another.

"We will try to negotiate the best deal (with the landlords) possible to keep Malaysia Hall," he said in response to an appeal by two Malaysians.

"It may be in this place or may be in another place ... but I have become familiar with this place and I would like to come back to Malaysia Hall," he added.

He said the Government would look into the matter and decide what it could do to save Malaysia Hall.

"It is not the Government's intention to cut off Malaysians who have been living in the United Kingdom for a long time from home. And if you see that Malaysia Hall is a link with Malaysia, we would like to maintain it," he said.

Malaysians in Britain have appealed to the Government to save the four-decade-old Malaysia Hall at Bryanston Square in London.

Regarded as a home away from home, the property was leased to the Malaysian Government in the 1950s. The lease on two of the four units which house the Malaysian Students' Department, a canteen and lodging facilities, will expire next year. The lease for the remaining two units will expire in 2013.

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