

Don't destroy our heritage, **SUN** - 2 JUL 2007 students urged

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded university students to protect their heritage as they will one day take over the country's leadership.

"Don't destroy something out of anger towards the older generation and for not doing something which you feel should have been done," he said at the symposium on *Idealism for Undergraduates in the New Millennium* at Universiti Malaya here.

Mahathir said students must be prepared to take over from the older generation by being efficient and knowledgeable so that they can implement things.

He said sometimes some people feel the process is taking a long time and because they cannot wait, they destroy everything as they have no power or ability as yet.

"They think they can take over fast by doing this, but actually it will take a longer time. Instead, if we protect our heritage and take over from the older generation, we will achieve the results in a

shorter period of time."

Mahathir also expressed disappointment over the burning down of UM's Dewan Tunku Canselor on Friday.

"We have a rather strong sentiment towards this building and we are quite upset over the incident. Whether it was done on purpose or not, it is up to the authorities to find out. We have lost a historical monument belonging to the country's higher learning institution."

Mahathir also said the symposium is timely as some students have lost their direction. "Some do not regard the university as a place to gain knowledge but a place to train in other fields, may be in a field of how to burn down a building."

He cited the example of university students from a neighbouring country whom, he said, felt it was their duty to demonstrate.

He said the students had succeeded in causing chaos and a decline in jobs. "When they graduated and tried to find job, no jobs could be offered to them as the country had become poor."