

Fire report out today

Police ask public not to speculate on Dewan Tunku Canselor blaze

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PETALING JAYA, Sun: The Fire and Rescue Department is expected to submit a full report on Friday's fire at Universiti Malaya's Dewan Tunku Canselor tomorrow.

Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government Datuk M. Kayveas said today that further comments will only be made after the report has been studied.

"I do not think the response time of the fire and rescue personnel is being questioned but it would be good if the security personnel on duty came forward to explain what happened," he said after launching a recycling centre here.

He expressed disappointment with the department, which failed

to inform him immediately of the incident.

"If it is true that students were involved in the blaze, the younger generation is playing with fire," Kayveas said.

He said such negative expression of dissatisfaction over something is not part of the Malaysian culture and will not benefit anyone:

Kayveas also called on lecturers to play a more proactive role in controlling the behaviour of students who are aping the negative culture of the West.

The fire gutted the hall on the eve of a symposium to be attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and several government leaders, sparking

charges of sabotage.

Police urged the people today not to speculate on the cause of the fire.

Kuala Lumpur police chief SAC I Datuk Meor Chek Hussein Mahayuddin said police were investigating the cause from various aspects and they hoped the public would not jump to conclusions, Bernama reports.

"We are still waiting for the reports to come in from the Chemistry Department, Fire and Rescue Department and Tenaga Nasional Bhd, which are among the various departments cooperating with us. Then we will make a decision," he said when inspecting the scene of the fire.

On statements by politicians

who linked the incident to arson, he said: "No comments on that but we will investigate and make decisions based on the evidence and not speculation. We are not pointing fingers at anybody."

Meor said the findings of the probe were expected to be ready in about two or three weeks and then "we will send it to Bukit Aman".

On pamphlets distributed at the university recently, he said police have still not been able to identify the people behind it. The matter is still under investigation.

"Actually, we are not interrogating the students. It is an interview and this is a process of the investigation and the word 'interrogation', used by the press, is a bit harsh," he said.