

# Universities not less vulnerable'

SUN - 7 JUL 2007

## 24-hour security no guarantee of safety, says Musa

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**PENANG, Fri:** Universities have good, 24-hour security, but this does not mean they are not vulnerable to fire.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said this when asked to comment if security at universities was adequate, following the fire at Universiti Malaya last Friday.

"The security at universities has always been good, always on full alert they have 24-hour security.

"However, this does not mean that a university cannot get burnt.

"Even in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), when I was the Vice-Chancellor, we had an incident where two buildings were burnt.

"Fortunately at that time, nobody asked that I resign. In spite of all the precautions, and alarm links, it does happen. It can be assumed if there is no security or less security, then there could be more fires."

In the pre-dawn blaze at Universiti Malaya, Dewan Tunku Canselor was gutted two days before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was set to close a symposium there.

The cause of the fire is being investigated, and Musa said he has yet to receive a report on the fire from the Fire and Rescue Services Department.

"I will not comment when I don't have the facts. I will not answer questions on opinions made by others," Musa said after launching USM's first

Malaysiana discussion.

On the rape and murder of a 16-year-old girl in Malacca, Musa said there is a need to take a deeper look at what is ailing society when certain individuals can take a young life in such a brutal manner.

Nurul Hanis Kamil's semi-nude and bloodied body was found about 100m from her home in Kampung Tersusun, in a clearing by villagers about 6pm on Tuesday.

The Form Four student of SM Datuk Abdul Rahman Yaacob was beaten,

raped and sodomised before being strangled.

"That is a very tragic incident.

"I was with the prime minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and he mentioned that he is grieved by this.

"I am equally grieved by the fact that this kind of thing can happen in our society

"I think this indicates that there are social problems that need to be looked at carefully and we hope the murderer gets caught soon."