

01/07/2001

Call for resignation a `national decision'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Puteri Umno pro tem chief Azalina Othman said today the movement's call for Universiti Malaya vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Mohd Zain to resign was "a national decision".

She said the call was not just because of the fire that razed Dewan Tunku Canselor but was also due also to other incidents that had happened on the campus.

She said the Varsiti 2001 magazine, whose contents belittled national leaders, had the university's logo and this suggested that the university had produced it.

Azalina said the distribution of pamphlets insulting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was another issue.

"Puteri Umno feels that after the publication of the Varsiti 2001 magazine, there should have been an investigation. Then the pamphlets appeared and there was a fire.

"I am afraid there is a connection," she said after moderating at a forum during the Symposium on Reaffirming the Idealism of Undergraduates in the New Millennium at Dewan Perdana Siswa in Universiti Malaya.

Azalina said the incidents suggested that university students and staff could do anything they liked and get away with it.

"Somebody must be responsible. If we follow the principles of organisations, the person responsible is the number one person. We want authorities in all universities to be responsible." she said.

Azalina said Puteri Umno felt there was a connection between the timing of the fire and the arrival tomorrow of Dr Mahathir to close the symposium.

She said the movement feared that a culture of militancy might appear in universities.

Azalina also said Puteri Umno had nothing against Anuar Zaini personally and the memorandum was directed at the position of the vice-chancellor.

(END)