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CPO: More time needed to complete Dewan Tunku Canselor fire probe

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The police require more time to complete their investigation into the fire which gutted Universiti Malaya's Dewan Tunku Canselor (DTC) last month, city police chief Datuk Meor Che Hussin Mahayuddin said today.

Declining to reveal details, except to say that they were still compiling information on the case, he said so far they had interviewed 33 people, including students, university staff and lecturers to help in police investigations.

"Police are gathering information from all parties, including witnesses to determine what had actually happened during the fire."

No arrests have been made so far.

"Police are as keen as everyone else to complete the investigation and to find out the outcome ... however, we need more time to investigate," he said at a Press conferrence at city police headquarters in Jalan Hang Tuah today.

He said police were awaiting final reports from relevant authorities like the Fire and Rescue Department, Tenaga Nasional and the Chemistry Department.

It was learnt Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting had submitted a report on the June 29 fire from the Fire and Rescue Department to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

When met at Dewan Maksak in Kota Kinabalu today, Ong said: "Let the police do their investigation. It will be improper for me to reveal the findings now."

It was learnt that either the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was expected to disclose the findings soon.

On Tuesday, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Senator Datuk M. Kayveas had said the fire broke out at 3am but the Fire and Rescue Department was only alerted at 3.40am.

He had said two fire-engines from Pantai and another three from Kuala Lumpur took five minutes to reach the scene.