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`Don't blame the V-C'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - No one should blame the vice-chancellor of Universiti Malaya Prof Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Mohd Zain as investigation on the fire which gutted the Dewan Tunku Canselor, is still not ready.

Cheras Umno division chief Datuk Syed Ali Al-Habshee said the cause of the fire had yet to be determined.

"At this point, no one should point their fingers at the vice-chancellor or force him to resign.

"However, I believe the university's administration, especially Anuar Zaini, has to make a clarification and be fully responsible for the incident to avoid public misconception," he said.

Syed Ali said UM's staff and students should co-operate to find the cause of the fire and if arson was involved, legal action should be taken against those involved.

He also supported the suggestion by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim that a special committee which included arson specialists be set up to determine the cause of the fire.

"With the setting up of the committee, the relevant authorities will know the cause of fire, whether it started from a short circuit or there were efforts to sabotage Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's attending the closing ceremony of the Symposium Penegasan Arah Tuju Idealisma Mahasiswa di Alaf Baru, scheduled to be held two days after the incident."

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