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Puteri Umno calls for VC's immediate resignation

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Puteri Umno has called for the immediate resignation of Universiti Malaya vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Anuar Zaini Mohd Zain for recent incidents that had taken place in the university campus.

Its pro-tem chief Azalina Othman Said submitted a memorandum on this today to Anuar at Bilik Bakat of Universiti Malaya's Chancellor Building after a Press conference by Anuar on the predawn fire which razed the UM's Dewan Tunku Canselor.

She said the memorandum was submitted because Puteri Umno was not satisfied with the explanation Anuar had given to the Press and felt that the movement had to make a stand on the matter.

"He should take full responsibility for the incidents," she said.

Anuar had briefed the Press on the fire and on the change of venue for tomorrow's Symposium Penegasan Arah Tuju Idealisma Mahasiswa Di Alaf Baru.

Azalina said Puteri Umno felt that the vice-chancellor should have been in the position to monitor the situation and to prevent the incident.

"We are wondering why he was not aware of the developments that had taken place prior to the fire," she said.

Azalina said two incidents prior to the pre-dawn fire should have alerted the university authorities of the seriousness of the students' anti-government actions - the publication of the Varsiti 2001 magazine and the distribution of pamphlets insulting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by calling him pengkhianat Malaysia (traitor of Malaysia).

The memorandum said the fire, the publication of the magazine and the distribution of the pamphlets had tarnished the university's reputation.

It also asked that an admission be made of the weaknesses in the university's leadership and management that should not exist and are unacceptable by the Malay community.

The memorandum said these weaknesses had led to the publication of the magazine and the distribution of the pamphlets.

It said these incidents had also tarnished the good name and image of Universiti Malaya and that of the government.

All these had caused the vice-chancellor's credibility to be questioned.

The memorandum said the fire should not have occurred if university security personnel had carried out their duties and seemed as though it was linked to Dr Mahathir's scheduled presence to give a speech at the Dewan Tunku Chancellor on July 1.

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