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Special unit to manage DTC

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - A special unit will be set up to manage the rebuilt Dewan Tunku Canselor in Universiti Malaya which was gutted in a fire nearly three years ago, UM Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Md Zain said today.

"With the up-to-date facilities and equipment, there now needs to be a special unit to oversee and manage the various aspects of DTC, including maintenance, finance and scheduling," he said.

He said due to the generous contributions towards the DTC Restoration Fund initiated by the New Straits Times and funds collected from UM campus fund, the DTC had been restored to its former glory.

"UM is very grateful to the NST for setting up the DTC Restoration Fund spontaneously just two days after news of the fire was reported," he said at the ceremony to close the DTC Restoration Fund account at UM today, Dr Anuar Zaini said the campus fund was still ongoing and collection stood at RM615,099.40.

"This is an important event because there needs to be a finality to the hall project and we need to report to society that the contributions had reached the fund.

"DTC was rebuilt beginning March 23 last year and is now equipped with state-of-the-art technology in audio and visual systems, new electrical wiring and air-conditioning systems, smoke and motion detectors, and sprinklers and alarm system."

Anuar Zaini said the cause of the fire was believed to have been worn-out wiring and overuse, and the authorities had ruled out arson.

"The hall's traditional designs have been maintained with some additional facilities."

He said UM was also rebuilding DTC's Experimental Theatre which was not affected by the fire.

Quoting NST group editor Datuk Ahmad A. Talib in his column dated July 1, 2001, titled Let's rebuild Dewan Tunku Canselor together, The New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd financial controller Syed Faisal Albar said it was NST's social duty to launch the restoration campaign to rebuild an institution that many appreciated.

"NST received the first contribution of RM600 from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 1, 2001, and the last from Barisan Nasional of RM20,000," he said.

Syed Faisal later presented a cheque for RM731,402.79 to Dr Anuar Zaini.

Restoration fund co-ordinating committee chairman Datuk Nordin Razak, faculty deans and directors as well as senior chancellory officers witnessed the event.