Fire burns down Unimas building

KUCHING: A dawn fire burnt down a two-decade old building at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) in Kota Samarahan.

Many important documents, including lecture papers, that were in the building were also reduced to ashes.

With the building gone, not less than eight lecturers were forced to run their classes in temporary locations in the university.

Sources said the fire was first spotted by a security guard around 4.45am yesterday when he noticed a column of smoke emanating from building.

The Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba) received a distress call five minutes later, and by 5.10am, 15 firefighters from the Kota Samarahan and Tabuan Jaya stations were already dousing the flame. The fire was brought under control at 5.36am.

According to Kota Samarahan Bomba chief Bujang Juman, they were still trying to determine the cause of the fire although initial investigation pointed to short circuit as the culprit.

Unimas deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs and alumni) Professor Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman said the university was thankful no one was in the building, which was built in 1993, when it caught fire.