

# Live-in schools' poor HSC results

## MAHATHIR TELLS SENATE OF DISAPPOINTING '74 PERFORMANCE

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wednesday.

EDUCATION Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed expressed dissatisfaction in the Senate today over the poor performance of fully-residential schools in the Higher School Certificate examination last year.

"The results of all these schools deteriorated compared with their 1973 performance. Datuk Abdul Razak School in Seremban produced its worst results," he said in an analysis of last year's examination re-

sults.

While the fully-residential Malay - medium schools of Alam Shah and the Klang Islamic College improved their performance in the Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran (Malay-medium HSC), two other schools, the Kolam Air Girls' School and Sultan Abdul Halim School, Jitra, fared badly.

One of the reasons for the poor showing, he added, was the "brain drain" of these schools' best pupils to colleges at home and abroad after their MCE examination.

Dr. Mahathir said there had been a slight improvement in the MCE and SPM results compared with 1973.

While the STP results also improved, the HSC

results were down by 2.6 per cent over the previous year.

### Little better

Of the 4,696 HSC candidates from fully-aided schools, only 2,370, or 61.1 per cent, obtained full certificates — 2.6 per cent fewer over the previous year.

Only 662, or 38.6 per cent, of the 1,717 candidates for the Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran in fully-aided schools obtained full certificates — an improvement of 2.1 per cent over 1973.

Both science and arts students did slightly better than in 1973. Of the 507 who took science last year, 54 (10.6 per cent) obtained full certificates. Only 41, (8.7 per cent) of 508 passed, the previous year.

In arts, 608 (50.2 per cent) of the 1,210 candidates obtained full certificates; in 1973, only 588 (48.3 per cent) of the 1,216 candidates passed.

Dr. Mahathir described the performance of the fully-residential schools in last year's MCE examination as "most encouraging."

The schools achieved near 100 per cent passes, with a marked increase

in the Grade One list.

### Top schools

He singled out three schools for the performance. Tunku Kurshiah College in Seremban, which had 100 per cent passes, also produced 156 Grade One students, six Grade Two and only one Grade Three.

Two secondary science schools in Penang and Selangor, which offered MCE candidates for the first time, obtained 100 per cent and 99.5 per cent passes respectively.

There was an overall 6-per cent pass rate (28,228 student) among the total 46,246 in fully-aided schools who took the MCE, a one per cent improvement over the previous year. However, there were fewer students with Grade One.

The percentage of passes in Bahasa Malaysia improved by 3.6 per cent to 72 per cent.

Dr. Mahathir said that in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination, 14,738 (64.7 per cent) of 22,789 candidates passed — a nine per cent improvement over 1973, in which only 10,889 (55.8 per cent) out of 19,520 candidates passed.