

Reporters: LIM THOW BOCN, TENGKU MOHAMED TAIB and JACOB PAUL

# Why MIT can't take in non-Malays: Mahathir

**KUALA LUMPUR,** Thurs. — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister (Dr. Mahathir Mohamed) said today that opening the door of the Mara Institute of Technology to non-bumiputras would only worsen the existing educational imbalance between the bumiputras and non-bumiputras.

The Government, therefore, had no plans to take in students from other races into the MIT.

Dr. Mahathir was replying to points raised during the debate on the Mara Institute of Technology Bill, 1976 which he introduced in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. The Bill seeks to place the MIT as a statutory body under the Education Ministry.

## 'IT WILL WIDEN THE EXISTING EDUCATIONAL GAP BETWEEN THEM'



TENGKU NOOR ASIAH

be appointed from Sabah and Sarawak to sit on the MIT Council.

Encik Latin Dris (NF-Mukah) supported the Government action on students who caused trouble in the MIT. He hoped the Sarawak branch of the MIT would be expanded so that more rural youths could be trained.

Mr. Lim Kian Hoon (NF-Padang Serai) said plenty of patience was required in the education process.

Encik Shamsuri Mohamed Saleh (NF-Balik Pulau) urged greater support for the Govern-

ing in campuses located in the rural areas.

Encik Hashim Ghazali (NF-Matang) also called on the Government to set up more MIT branches in the various states. He also suggested that freshies be admitted to the State campuses.

The House later passed the Educational Institutions (Discipline) Bill which seeks to make provisions relating to discipline in educational institutions other than universities.

The provisions are applicable to the MIT at Shah Alam and Petaling Jaya and its branches in Perils, Trengganu, Sabah and Sarawak.

The proposed law empowers the Education Minister to bring other institutions of learning within the ambit of the proposed law.

Introducing the Bill, Dr. Mahathir said ideal academic atmosphere was not only absent in

leges Act.

"The importance of such laws was demonstrated recently when 20 students, who were not readmitted due to unhealthy activities, gate crashed into the MIT campus at night.

"They broke into the office and burned important documents. For several hours they created havoc and denied peace to students who wanted to go about with their work."

Dr. Mahathir said because of this wild behaviour it was necessary to have an Act governing student discipline in such institutions as the MIT.

"With this Act, peace in MIT will be maintained... by laws that is not easily broken by anybody," he added.

Raja Nasron Ishak (NF-Kuala Selangor) called for greater use of religion to instil discipline among students. He urged the authorities to solve problems as they arose and not to wait for something drastic to happen before taking action.

Raja Nasron said private institutions of learning such as the Goon Institution and the CYMA College should be brought within the ambit of the proposed law.

### Privileges

Mr. S. Samy Vellu (NF-Sungei Siput) said the students should be better disciplined as they are the leaders of tomorrow. They should not use their privileges to sow discord, he added.

Tengku Noor Asiah (NF-Tumpat) said the MIT administration

## Like blood

In explaining why non-bumiputras could not be accepted into the MIT, he equated the situation to the differing pressures exerted in the arteries and veins of the human body.

In the same way as blood from high pressure arteries would flow into low pressure veins, non-bumiputra students from high pressure areas as the Tunku Abdul Rahman College would flood a low pressure area like the MIT.

Since the TAR College was a high pressure area, bumiputra students could not gain entry because of the "low pressure" exerted by them.

If the "high pressure" non-bumiputra students were allowed into the MIT, they would make it difficult for bumiputras students to compete on a fair basis.

However, he said, the Government was aware of the benefits of mixing students of all races in any institution of learning.

The national schools served this purpose. It was here that students of all races could mix freely and be taught in one medium of instruction.

On student unrest, Dr. Mahathir said although he could not deny that such unrest was "here to stay," steps had to be taken to control it.

Steps need to be taken to prevent the unrest as

it would not help in the education of youths. Laws would not wipe out student unrest completely, but it would at least reduce its incidence.

On the need for the 200-odd students who were required to be reinterviewed prior to re-admission, he said this was to give them the opportunity to clear themselves from any real involvement in the recent demonstration.

He added that while the majority of the students did not wish to be interrupted the Government could not allow the minority of hardcore students to cause trouble.

Dr. Mahathir also apologised for saying yesterday that the MIT achieved only 10 per cent success.

He said what he really meant was 10 per cent success was attained only in certain courses and not in all courses.

On a call for the MIT to be named after the late Tun Abdul Razak, he said the suggestion would be considered by a committee that was studying suggestions for places be named after the Tun.

## Rural needs

This was to ensure that the late Tun's name would not be used for places that were not appropriate.

Earlier, during the debate on the Bill, Mr. Edwin Tangkun (Snap-Batang Lupar) said that at least one member should

ment's action on the MIT. He added that the people did not want trouble makers in the country.

He said trouble makers must be weeded out and that regulations in the MIT should be tightened and strictly enforced.

The passing of the Bill would revive parents' confidence in the MIT and prevent it from being used by any particular group for its own ends.

## Other courses

He expressed the hope that Dr. Mahathir and MIT Director Datuk Lokman Musa would be able to justify the trust placed in their hands by the people and fulfil the hopes of the people with regards to the MIT.

Encik Zakaria Haji Abdul Rahman (NF-Besut) called for more MIT branches to be set up in the rural areas, including Besut.

He said the MIT should also conduct courses on book-keeping and management for LCE and MCE students.

He disagreed with Mr. Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Kota Melaka) who said yesterday that students were afraid to speak on controversial issues for fear of being black-marked by the authorities.

Encik Zakaria said student leaders had discussed current issues freely with him.

Encik Shaari Jusoh (NF-Kangar) said better discipline could be maintained among MIT students if they were study-

institutions that were not within the University and University Colleges Act but in fact it was also worse.

During the whole of the 1975/76 academic year, for example, MIT was turned into an arena that was full of conflicts, he added. The students held all sorts of activities, made it impossible for the existence of ideal academic atmosphere and made the learning process almost impossible.

Dr. Mahathir said: "The climax of these activities by a few MIT students was their obstruction of the officials from going about their (officials') tasks."

## With threats

"They obstructed the smooth process of student registration and officials on duty were threatened. Lectures could not be held."

Because of this the MIT could not be reopened last January, he added.

"Even today there are unhealthy activities among a few students who have been readmitted even though they have given an undertaking during the interviews."

Dr. Mahathir said the students unrest happened because of the lack of firm laws and regulations to govern student discipline. The MIT administrators could not function effectively because they were not aided by such laws as the Universities and Col-

should be improved otherwise the proposed law would not serve any purpose.

She noted that one provision of the Bill forbade drinking and drug taking among students. She wanted to know why smoking was not banned as well.

Encik Shaari Jusoh (NF-Kangar) said discipline was vital in educational institutions for the sake of the students themselves.

He also said the full facts must always be presented to the public by the authorities over any incident or action as in the case of the MIT issue.

Dr. Mahathir, replying, said the Education Ministry should not be considered as an assembly line which would produce identical people with identical thinking and characteristic.

He also said that the Bill was being introduced to ensure that the student unrest would not increase.

The house will resume tomorrow.