

# 'Not all those eligible will get into varsity'



DR. MAHATHIR

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs.** — The Government could not give an assurance that all eligible students would be offered places in local universities, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education (Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad) told the Dewan Rakyat today.

The number of students accepted by the various universities depended on the availability of places and the fulfilment of certain conditions, he added.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir, replying to points raised during the debate

on next year's budget, said if eligible students did not obtain places in local universities, it did not constitute a tragedy or a loss, as the country still required sub-professional workers who need not have university qualifications.

"In my opinion, there are no developing nations, like ours, which could give an assurance to their people that all eligible students will be given places in the universities," he added.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir also said if all eligible students were given places in the universities, they would only become unemployed graduates.

## Improving BM

On the alleged unsatisfactory methods of teaching Bahasa Malaysia in schools, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir said the use of Bahasa Malaysia in schools and institutions of higher learning had shown satisfactory progress.

In addition, positive steps had already been taken to ensure that this progress would be improved wherever necessary, and to improve the standard of teaching the national language.

A step taken was the setting up of a language unit at the Education Ministry's Curriculum Development Centre, to

control and review the progress in the teaching and usage of Bahasa Malaysia.

The authorities had also placed a language supervisor at all State education departments to control the development of the language in schools.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir also assured the House that the use of English as an important second language would be extended.

The Government, he said, also gave serious attention to moral education, the teaching of religious knowledge in schools, and the Education Ministry had formed

a moral education committee to study the possibility of formulating a moral education syllabus for schools.