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Let top students enter varsities

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MY heart bleeds when I read the article "Consider appeals of 10A students" (NST, June 23).

I am shocked and surprised how these 359 students (25 with 10As, 58 with 9As, 80 with 8As, 79 with 7As, 57 with 6As and 60 with 5As) have failed to secure places at public institutions of higher learning.

As a past student and, now, parent with two school-going children, I am furious and disgusted at the decision of the so-called elite educationists sitting in the selection board to reject these students' applications.

Why were their applications rejected? Is it because they were born non-Bumiputera?

Or have they done too well, offending the members of the selection committee, who are all below excellence compared to these students?

Moreover, these students are from poor families and could not afford to further their studies at private educational institutions.

For a student to have excelled in his or her studies, it is only common sense that both parents and students would have sacrificed much in terms of time, finance and effort - parents ferrying the children to tuition centres after office hours, buying workbooks and spending time with them at home helping with their school work.

As for the students, hours are spent studying and doing school work.

Having gone through all these trials and tribulations and excelling in their studies, they still fail to secure a place at an institution of higher learning.

It is our sincere hope that all children grow up as one Malaysian race, and not as Malays, Chinese or Indians.

This is the intention of our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and to achieve this, people at the top should think and act rationally.

Let's not lose the contribution of these 359 brains in our nation building. Let's call ourselves Malaysian and not Malay, Chinese or Indian. Let's do it NOW.