

# All varsity places filled, says ministry

STAR 9 MAY 2001

By GAVIN GOMEZ

**GENTING HIGHLANDS:** The Education Ministry produced new statistics yesterday to show that all available places in public local universities have been filled and there are in fact 11,376 eligible bumiputra students who failed to obtain places.

The Higher Education Department (HED) director Prof Dr Hassan Said apologised for leaving out two groups of matriculation students when he announced last week that 30,832 STPM holders or equivalent had been offered places at universities this year.

The first group comprises 5,761 students who completed their matriculation course last September

and enrolled at universities in November. Dr Hassan said they made up the bumiputra quota for this year's intake because last year's was already full.

The other group comprises 2,604 matriculation students from the International Islamic University which is not considered one of the 14 local public institutions of higher learning or IPTA.

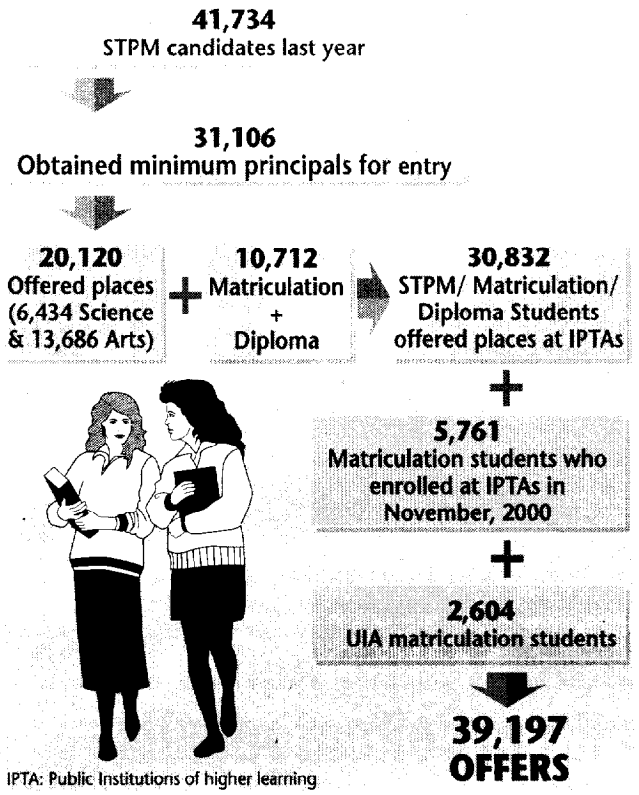
Hence, said Dr Hassan, the actual number of students offered places at IPTA was 39,197, almost 2,000 more than the department's projection of 38,000 for the coming academic year.

"With this, I wish to stress that the issue of not enough bumiputra

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**UNIVERSITY PLACEMENTS FOR 2001/2002**



IPTA: Public Institutions of higher learning.

# Ministry: New figures reflect quota system

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candidates to fill the quota does not arise," he told a press conference after the opening of a colloquium on the academic performance of Malay students at IPTAs here.

He said the new figures also reflected the quota system or an enrolment breakdown of 55% bumiputras, 35% Chinese and 10% Indians.

Last week, Dr Hassan told *The Star* that intake into public universities this year was below the projected figure because not enough bumiputra students met the minimum standard. Thus, the enrolment was kept at 30,832 to maintain the 55:45 bumiputra to non-bumiputra quota.

However, yesterday, he

said: "In fact, there are 11,376 bumiputras who met the minimum standard (two principal passes) but did not get a place for first degree programmes."

Based on the figures disclosed last week and yesterday, of the 39,197 students offered places, more than one-third of them comprise matriculation students (see chart).

Commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement on Monday that university intake would be reviewed if bumiputra students could not fill their quota, Dr Hassan said appeals from students would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.