

Govt keeping tabs on varsity quota issue

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This is to make sure no one takes advantage of situation, says Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat: The government is closely monitoring the issue surrounding bumiputra quota in public universities to ensure that no one takes advantage of the situation and turn it into a racial matter.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the issue needs to be monitored so that it will not be made into a seditious or unpleasant situation.

"Such issues should not be used for political interest, to create chaos or envy among the different races," said Abdullah.

He also said the government understands the problems faced by parents of the top students

who did not get places in public universities but that the Education Ministry will find ways to help them.

Abdullah said this when asked about attempts by certain parties to make it a racial issue.

He was speaking to reporters after a charity golf competition organised by Umno Clubs Overseas alumni here.

The issue on university quota was highly debated early this month after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stated that places reserved for bumiputras in public universities which were not filled should be given to non-bumiputras.