

# ***90% of bumis lack funds to study privately***

**STAR - 3 SEP 2001**

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** More than 90% of bumiputra students could not pursue their education in private colleges because they lacked the funds to do so, according to an educationist here.

For the same reason, many bumiputra students dropped out midway through their studies, said National Association of Bumiputra Private Learning Institutions president Dr **Ismail** Mohd Salleh.

Speaking at the Malay Education Congress here yesterday, he said that despite several financial schemes offered by the Government, the distribution of funds to cover the needs of poor bumiputra students was not enough.

He said existing funds included the **Mara** education fund, national higher education fund and various funds provided by state governments.

He proposed that the Government set up a **RM1bil** education fund to help students who fail to get financial help to follow government-sponsored courses at

private universities.

Dr **Ismail** also suggested that the intake of students into private colleges be managed by government bodies such as **Mara**.

To help students understand English better, he proposed that technical subjects in schools, such as Science and Mathematics, be taught in the language.

**Mara** director-general Datuk Mohamad **Mydin** Shariff proposed the setting up of a university offering vocational and technical education for poor bumiputra students.

This was because many of these students, who failed to gain places in public universities, were qualified to pursue vocational education.

The proposals were accepted by delegates at the congress? who also agreed that more emphasis be given by the Government to subjects like science, mathematics and English.

Nearly 800 people, including students attended the two-day congress, which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday.