

08/05/2001

MCA, MIC supportive of rakyat deciding on student quota

MUAR, Mon. - The MCA today voiced its support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's view that the Government is prepared to consider the wishes of the people as to whether or not there should be a quota on the intake of students into universities.

MCA vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng said today it would be wise to absorb high achievers who scored 9As, 10As, 11As, 12As and 13As in their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia into local universities.

"These students are assets to the country," Chua said to reporters after chairing the MCA Bakri division annual delegates' assembly last night.

"If they are 'lured' by good offers, incentives and scholarships to study abroad, then they will probably end up working there, and this would be a great loss to Malaysia," he said.

Chua said taking in the high achievers would also help expand the science, technology, engineering and medical fields in the local universities.

Chua said more than 40 per cent of specialist doctors in Singapore were Malaysians, and Silicon Valley in the US was full of professionals of Asian origin.

In Kuala Lumpur, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said any decision taken to help non-Bumiputera students, especially intelligent ones from poor families, should be encouraged and appreciated by the people.

"The abolition of the (quota) system will encourage all students who have good results to seek places in local universities," he said.

Speaking to reporters after officiating at a Chittirai Pournami or "Full Moon Festival" at the Kuil Sri Samayapurattu Mariamman in Jinjang Utara, Samy Vellu said about 1,000 students approached the MIC every year for assistance in securing seats in public universities.

(END)