

MRSM have taken non-Malays since '74

SUN - 7 JUN 2002

by **Husna Yusop**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: The Mara Junior Science College (MRSM) Students Alumni (Ansara) believes that MRSM was set up to help poor students excel in their studies.

Therefore, if there are non-Malays in a similar situation, there should be no problem accepting them, Ansara president Mukhriz Mahathir said, referring to the 10% quota for non-bumiputra students in MRSM.

"We still think that MRSM's original objective is to bring out poor children, Malays and non-Malays, from rural areas and put them in a conducive envi-

ronment for studying.

"However, the reality is that there are more Malays in this situation compared with non-Malays," Mukhriz, who entered MRSM in 1974, told a press conference.

Also present were Ansara deputy president Abdul Mutalib Alias and secretary-general Roslan Badrul Amin, who was among the first batch of students in 1972.

Ansara said that it is not against the government's decision to introduce a 10% quota for non-bumiputras in MRSM and matriculation programmes because this does not affect the position of Malay students.

Mukhriz said the school has been taking in non-bumiputra students since

1974, two years after the first MRSM was set up.

"People are making noise because they do not know this fact. For us who have experienced it, we know that it is not a problem. ... We don't see anything bad about it, why should we oppose?" he said.

Asked whether Ansara will take part in the National Education Dialogue organised by the Federation of Malay Peninsular Students (GPMS) on June 15 to discuss the issue, he said it would participate if invited.

GPMS president Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim said on Tuesday that the dialogue is meant to form a mutual stand among Malay academicians, thinkers and politicians on the issue.