

09 MAY 2002

DR MAHATHIR EXPLAINS REASON FOR HIGH PERCENTAGE OF BUMIPUTERAS TO IPTA

KERTIH, May 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the high percentage of Bumiputera students gaining places in public institutions of higher learning (IPTA) compared to the their non-Bumiputera counterparts was because they had the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) qualifications.

"The number of non-Bumiputera students who sat for the STPM was small while the number of Bumiputeras was bigger," he told reporters after visiting the Petronas Petroleum Industrial Complex here today.

But Dr Mahathir said he believed the situation was only temporary once more non-Bumiputera students opted to sit for the STPM.

He was asked to comment on the announcement made by the Education Ministry today that 22,557 or 68.9 per cent of the 32,752 applicants who gained places in 17 IPTA were Bumiputeras as compared to 26.4 per cent Chinese and 4.7 per cent Indians.

Asked whether it reflected improvement in the academic performance of the Bumiputera students, the Prime Minister said the government had introduced the system of meritocracy after noting that they fared poorly in their studies and were not competitive enough.

-- BERNAMA

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