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IPTA-places

32,752 GAIN PLACES IN IPTA IN SELECTION BASED ON MERIT,

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 May (Bernama) -- A total of 32,752 holders of the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) and its equivalent have gained places in 17 institutions of higher learning (IPTA) for the academic session 2002/2003 in a selection based on merit, introduced for the first time this year.

In the past, the selection was based on the quota system of 55:35:10 for Malays, Chinese and Indians.

Higher Education Director Prof Dr Hassan Said said of the number, 22,557 or 68.9 per cent are Bumiputeras, 8,665 (26.4) Chinese and 1,530 (4.7) Indians.

The Bumiputeras' percentage under the merit system was also higher than the 55 per cent under the quota system which was based on races, told a news conference here today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had previously warned Bumiputera students to study hard or lose out as selection to IPTA would no longer be based on the quota system but on academic performance.

"In matriculation colleges, I saw improved results in the first and second semesters following warning given to them to be more competitive and to concentrate on their studies," he said.

Dr Hassan also said that for the 2002/2003 session, there were 127,632 applications from SPM holders comprising 111,990 Bumiputeras, 11,576 Chinese and 4,066 Indians.

Of the number, 86,879 (Bumiputeras), 11,009 (Chinese) and 3,388 (Indians) met the requirements based on the diploma courses applied, providing a stiff competition for the limited places, he said.

Using the merit system, he said 1,272 (47.3%) Bumiputeras, 1,207 (44.9%) Chinese and 211 (7.8%) Indians succeeded in gain places.

He said that for the degree-level programme for holders of SPM and equivalent, only 2,690 were offered for 42 programmes at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

"The reduction in the number of first degree programme for holders of SPM and equivalent is in keeping with universal practice of completing 12 years of education before doing a degree programme," he said.

He said the marking this year also did not include the 10 marks awarded for co-curriculum activities as in the past to avoid a situation where an applicant with high academic marks could not gain a place because of a low co-curriculum mark.

He said the co-curriculum mark would also be used when two applicants had the same academic marks.

This year, he said the applicants were also given eight courses to choose instead of five in the past, offering them more options.

Dr Hassan said those who failed to gain places could appeal to the IPTA concerned before May 20 and if they did not receive any reply after a month, it meant they were unsuccessful.

-- BERNAMA

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