

# No exit exam for Manipal final students

star 3/7/03

BY A. LETCHUMANAN  
AND GAVIN GOMEZ

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The 74 final-year medical students at the Malacca Manipal Medical College will not be required to sit for an exit examination after they graduate as decided by the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) earlier.

The Cabinet decided yesterday that they would instead have to pass a practical clinical examination set by the college to qualify for housemanship.

Sources said the decision was reached after Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu raised the matter.

The sources said the reports from the Education Ministry's National Accreditation Board

(LAN) and Health Ministry were tabled at the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The students were put in a dilemma after the MMC imposed new conditions, including the exit examination, before their degrees were recognised.

Manipal College is reputed to be one of the best medical colleges in the world, with more than 2,800 Malaysians including government scholars, having graduated.

One source said Manipal had agreed to extend its medical course to five years from the present four-and-a-half years and, conduct the final examination in the fifth year instead of the fourth year.

Samy Vellu, when contacted, said:

"The new conditions are unfair to the students who had put in five years of studies.

Their parents had to spend lots of money to put their children in the medical school.

The MIC president said he was deluged with calls from students and parents.

Each parent pays about RM265,000 for their children to pursue a medical degree course in the college under a twinning programme.

Samy Vellu said Dr Mahathir had requested Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng to resolve the issue amicably.

When met at his office, Chua said a statement would be issued on the matter today.