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20 youths attend assessment session organised by RMC

ALTHOUGH the popular perception may be that Chinese are less enthusiastic when it comes to joining the police force or the armed forces, the Nanyang Siang Pau highlighted another side to the issue on Tuesday.

The newspaper said 20 Chinese youths attended the latest assessment session organised by the Royal Military College (RMC).

According to those interviewed, family support was the primary factor behind their decision to apply to join the RMC while monetary prospects and the possibility of improving their discipline had motivated others.

The RMC only takes in 300 students a year with this year's response seen as being unprecedented.

Meanwhile, the brain drain to Singapore was highlighted by the Sin Chew Daily on Tuesday when it reported the fact that two universities in the republic were offering attractive scholarships to lure Malaysian STPM highfliers to study across the Causeway.

Concerned about the outflow of local talent, the United Chinese Schools Committees Association (Dong Zong) chairman Quek Suan Hiang urged the Government to take the issue seriously.

The Sin Chew Daily quoted Quek as saying that the issue, if left unattended, will place Malaysia at the losing end as scores of local students will leave the country.

Although it was acceptable for a country with limited resources to outsource expertise from other countries Quek stressed that the Government ought to recognise the need to retain local talent, who were vital towards establishing a knowledge-based society.

The Oriental Daily News highlighted the fact that Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be acting Prime Minister for two months with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to go on leave.

In a commentary yesterday, it said Abdullah, being the heir-apparent, should make full use of the opportunity to understand how the administration functioned.

An immediate task was for him to identify means to reduce the effect of the imminent war in Iraq on the Malaysia economy, it said.