

# Strive to be specialists, medical students told

NST- 26/3/2007.

**BALI:** Malaysian students overseas, particularly the more than 3,600 medical undergraduates in Indonesia, must excel in their studies and realise their potential, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said they should not be content to graduate as a doctor.

The country required them to become specialists, he said.

“By specialising in a strategic medical discipline, not only will the market value of a doctor in-

crease, but it will also boost the country’s human capital,” he said at a dinner with more than 100 Malaysian medical students here on Saturday.

He said the government wanted to see high achievers among Malaysian students in strategic and hi-tech fields as the country was facing a shortage of brain and heart surgeons.

He said medical students need not worry about jobs back home as the government strove to boost

economic growth.

“Last year, the country registered good economic growth at 5.9 per cent. This year, we’re working to increase it to six per cent.

“As Malaysia moves towards becoming a developed nation as enshrined in Vision 2020, the country needs highly-qualified and skilled manpower,” he said.

At the dinner, attended by his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Najib said he was impressed with

the closeness and harmony among Malaysians on this holiday island.

He was attracted to the Malay, Chinese and Indian cultural dances by the would-be doctors, whom he said had trained well to stage a memorable performance despite having to study.

Najib, who is also defence minister, was here for the two-day Asean Defence Ministers Informal Meeting which ended yesterday. — Bernama