

# No change to Bumi intake for matriculation: PM

> Quota to be maintained as it is enshrined in Article 153 of Federal Constitution, says premier

**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has given an assurance that the government will maintain the Bumiputera quota for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) holders to continue their studies at the matriculation level.

Anwar said the quota would be maintained as it is enshrined in Article 153 of the Federal Constitution, which involves the special position of Malays, and Bumiputeras in Sabah and Sarawak.

"We have chosen a path that we believe is fair and reasonable. If they (the students) are citizens and residents of Malaysia, we must

support them, but we also accept meritocracy. Regardless of race or region, we can guarantee a place in matriculation for them.

"Our Bumiputera quota will remain unchanged because this decision is related to the Constitution, ensuring the future of Bumiputeras so that there is no disparity. Civil servants must understand that we uphold meritocracy, but we also uphold fairness," he said in his speech at the Prime Minister's Department monthly assembly yesterday.

On Sunday, Anwar announced that all students who obtain 10As and above in the SPM exam would be guaranteed a place in any

matriculation programme regardless of race or region, starting this year. The Cabinet made this decision on Friday.

Anwar said that although the decision recognises excellence regardless of race and background, the government would also resolutely defend the Bumiputera quota, *Bernama* reported.

"I believe this matter will be explained more thoroughly. Fadhlina (Education Minister) will clarify it more clearly."

Anwar said the decision shows that the *Madani* government is very concerned and wants the country to progress by prioritising the principle of equality, which is the motto of the country's administration.

"Education is the best vehicle to achieve social mobility. The best, the smartest, the brightest should be encouraged, but the poor should not be marginalised."