

PM: Malaysians get priority for university intake

IPOH: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said while Malaysia remains open to welcoming foreign students, priority in university admissions will always be given to Malaysian students.

He said Malaysia hosts about 170,000 international students, making it a leading destination for higher education.

“Yet, we prioritise Malaysians for university places.

“Foreign students who come here pay full fees — don’t block them — because their presence benefits us,” he said at the Seminar Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia Ce-

merlang Saya Pelajar Madani Cemerlang at SMJK Yuk Choy here yesterday.

“When the UPU (centralised university intake portal) opened, we saw deposes, often along racial lines. But the real issue isn’t race — it’s the shortage of places. We are short of about 30,000 engineers.

“Instead of arguing about quotas, we are increasing the number of places. An additional 1,500 seats will be created for outstanding Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia and matriculation students.”

At another event at Universiti

Teknologi Petronas, Anwar said the government is committed to cleansing the country of corruption, malpractice and cartel activities.

This commitment follows the success of strict enforcement, which led to the recovery of RM15.5 billion in national revenue.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said the success proves the government’s firmness in ensuring that no party, including high-ranking individuals, escapes legal action if involved in activities that are detrimental to the country.