

**What technical error, MCA lashes out over top students' failure to get places in public varsities**  
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The education ministry has come under fire from the MCA and the MIC after both parties received numerous complaints from top scorers who had failed to secure a place in local public universities.

MCA education bureau chairman Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong lashed out at the ministry for blaming it on "technical error", adding that he could not accept its excuse for the reason why many students had either failed to get in the institutions or did not get the course of their choice.

"They obtained 4.0 CGPA. Don't tell me they do not know how to fill a form. "I cannot accept this silly explanation. It is grossly unfair to the students," the Star reported Dr Wee as saying at Wisma MCA yesterday.

The MCA, he said, has received 108 appeal cases from STPM and matriculation leavers, including 55 who scored a cumulative grade point average of 4.0, since the issue was brought to light last week.

Eight of these students, who had obtained a perfect 4.0, had failed to get into public universities despite submitting their forms successfully.

However, Dr Wee pointed out that if technical error was the case, 16 students were called for an interview with Universiti Sains Malaysia.

"If it was a technical error, how could USM call them for an interview?" he asked. He added that the party would be calling on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to resolve the issue.

The Star also reported that the MIC had also received many complaints from Indian students who came out tops in STPM and matriculation on the same issue.

Its national youth council member G. Kalaichelvan said year after year, many Indian students end up dejected after the STPM results are out.

"Most want to do medicine and their STPM results meet the requirement but somehow they do not get a place in the public universities," he said, adding that it was a never-ending problem.

Meanwhile, Najib said he was aware that some students were disappointed about not getting places in universities.

"But don't give up. (I) will discuss at Cabinet this week how best to help these students," he said in a tweet. - July 17, 2013.

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