

3 more varsities

THREE more universities will be established under the Seventh Malaysia Plan to reduce some RM3 billion in foreign exchange outflow resulting from a large number of Malaysian students studying overseas.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said yesterday the ministry planned to triple the student intake of local universities from the current 7.2 per cent to 30 per cent by the year 2000.

"This would mean an increase of 190,000 students from the present 60,000 in local universities," he told reporters after closing the Sunway College Career Month in bandar Sunway, Petaling Jaya.

The recently-announced university in Sabah would be one of the three universities planned. The others would be a teacher training university and an open university, he said.

Earlier, in his speech, Fong called for closer cooperation between the government and the private sector to help transform Malaysia into an exporter of educational services.

"The government is committed to transforming Malaysia into a well-known regional centre of excellence and will continue to develop and expand educational facilities for more Malaysians," he said.

