

UMS takes in more Indian medical students

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LABUAN: MIC here which had been over the years tirelessly working to have the intake of Indian students by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) increased has finally found that its efforts were not an exercise in futility.

MIC Chairman, Ramasamy Rengasamy said: "The intake of Indian students for the first year (2013-2014) at UMS has increased by two-folds, 24 Indian students had been offered to study medical degrees compared to a mere seven in the previous intake (2012-2013).

He said as for the School of Engineering and Information Technology, intake of Indian students had also been increased to 18 from seven.

With the increase, there are now 105 Indian students pursuing various degrees for the first session of UMS in Kota Kinabalu. As for the overall number of Indian students in UMS, including those at the campuses here and Sandakan, it stood at 500

"Hopefully this would be increased further considering that UMS had a student population of more 10,000. There should be at least about 1,000 over

Indian students in the institution," said Ramasamy.

Ramasamy also hoped the Education Ministry will also similarly open up opportunities for Indian students at the Labuan Matriculation College.

He said the college took in only 11 Indian students last year and this was slashed to five this year out of an intake of 1,950 students.

"This was disturbing considering prior to the recent general elections, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had promised to increase the intake of students in these colleges to 1,500 but was not complied by the officers," said Ramasamy.

There are 14 matriculation colleges in the country while the number of Indian studying only made up a handful.

Ramasamy said the allocation of RM100 million in Budget 2014 to increase the skills of Indians so that the community would not be marginalised was clear proof that the BN government wanted Indians to enjoy a bright future. He said institutes of higher learning should support the move and give deserving Indians the opportunities.