

Selective entry to public varsities

> Unable to accept all applicants due to physical constraints

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GEORGE TOWN: Public universities are unable to accept all applicants due to physical constraints.

Higher Education Department director-general Prof Datuk Dr Asma Ismail said public universities would have no space for students if everyone were to be enrolled.

“That is why we cannot simply take everyone in. We need to be very selective,” she told a press conference after opening the Regional Focal Points Meeting (Asia) yesterday.

Her response comes after Bayan Baru MP Sim Tze Tzin questioned why the acceptance rate for the 2014/2015 term stood at 63.5% compared to 71.9% for the previous term.

In a statement yesterday, he said the 8.4% drop is worrying and urged the Education Ministry to come clean on the issue.

On another matter, Asma said Malaysian universities being in the

top 400 in the QS World University Ranking 2014 list, was not an overnight success.

She said efforts have been made to improve the standards and the government has been pleased with the improvements.

The annual world university ranking published by British company Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) showed that this year, Universiti Malaya (UM) ranked at number 151, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) at 259, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) at 294, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) at 309 and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) at 376.