

JKNCR: No 'Backdoor' Entry In IPTA, Admissions Strictly Based On Merit

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PUTRAJAYA—The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Rectors of Public Universities (JKNCR) today stressed that public higher learning institutions have never engaged in the practice of selling admission slots or providing entry through the "backdoor" to any party. In a statement today, JKNCR dismissed a politician's claim as baseless, saying that it had indirectly cast doubt on the integrity of the student admission system and the credibility of the country's higher education institutions.

The Joint Committee on Public University Admissions and Student Intake (JKNCR) emphasised that admissions to public universities are based on academic qualifications, merit, programme capacity, accreditation requirements, and approval from university authorities. The committee rejected claims that public universities provide "backdoor" entry to unqualified individuals through full-fee programmes. JKNCR highlighted that the number of offers for subsidised mainstream students has increased steadily, rising from 79,646 in the 2023/2024 academic session to 88,102 in 2025/2026. This increase reflects the Ministry of Higher Education's (MOHE) commitment to expanding access to higher education. The committee explained that full-fee admission channels are implemented under structured regulations and do not reduce places available through the main admission system. Revenue generated from these programmes helps universities improve facilities, employ additional lecturers, and support educational development. JKNCR also stressed that students from low-income families remain a priority, with 79.75% of students accepting bachelor's degree offers through UPUOnline in 2025/2026 coming from such backgrounds. Furthermore, all applicants must meet the required academic standards regardless of their financial status. Professional programmes such as medicine, engineering, law, and accounting continue to maintain strict entry and accreditation requirements. The committee reaffirmed that public universities are committed to providing equitable access to quality higher education while supporting disadvantaged students through various financial aid initiatives.

