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MAHATHIR - HOSPITAL

(P)
KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
TODAY OUTLINED THREE MAJOR AREAS IN THE BUILDING AND RUNNING OF
HOSPITALS THAT NEED SPECIAL ATTENTION FROM HOSPITAL BUILDERS AND
ADMINISTRATORS.

OPENING A ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM ON HEALTH CARE ORGANIZED BY A
CONSTRUCTION FIRM, YEOHTIONGLAY-WILMA, HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER
SAID THE AREAS WERE IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF HOSPITALS,
CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE HOSPITAL ITSELF AND HOSPITAL
MANAGEMENT.

ON HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT, HE SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO INFUSE
GREATER PROFESSIONALISM INTO HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT IN THE COUNTRY.
THE POOLING OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL? HOWEVER HIGHLY TRAINED THEY
MIGHT BE, IN THE MOST MODERN AND WELL-EQUIPPED HOSPITAL DID NOT
AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN EFFICIENT AND HIGH-QUALITY HOSPITAL CARE.

THEY NEEDS TO BE SUPPORTED BY AN EFFECTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,
AN APPROPRIATE WORKING ARRANGEMENT! CLEAR ASSIGNMENT OF ROLES AND
FUNCTIONS? AN EFFICIENT LOGISTIC AND MAINTENANCE SYSTEM AND A GOOD
INFORMATION SUPPORT SYSTEM.

ON PLANNING AND DESIGNING OF HOSPITALS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID
THERE WAS A NEED TO BUILD UP A SUFFICIENT POOL OF LOCAL EXPERTISE IN
THIS FIELD TO CATER FOR HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE IN THE
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

A HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF ITS SPECIAL NATURE, COMPLEX SUPPORTING
SERVICES AND PECULIAR ENGINEERING AND UTILITY REQUIREMENTS WAS ONE
OF THE MOST COMPLEX BUILDINGS TO PLAN, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT? HE SAID.

+IT REQUIRES A HOST OF ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS WITH SPECIALIZED
SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN HOSPITAL DESIGN AND OPERATION,+ HE ADDED.

APART FROM THAT IT SHOULD ALSO LEND ITSELF TO EASY MAINTENANCE.

ON EQUIPPING OF HOSPITALS? DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ONE
SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THE MOST SUITABLE IN TERMS OF COST AND
OPERATION WITH THE PRESENT WIDE RANGE OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN THE
MARKET.

HE NOTED THAT HOSPITAL CARE WAS THE MOST EXPENSIVE FORM OF
MEDICAL CARE BECAUSE IT REQUIRED A HIGH CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND AN
EQUALLY HIGH RUNNING COST.

ON CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE HOSPITAL ITSELF, DATUK
SERI DR. MAHATHIR BELIEVED THAT THE PERIOD OF BUILDING A HOSPITAL
COULD BE CUT DOWN FURTHER BY ADOPTING DIFFERENT BUILDING METHODS AND
BETTER COORDINATION IN CONSTRUCTION. -- BERNAMA

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