

Mahathir to doctors: Don't choose your patients

11ST 2-6 FEB 1985

KUALA LUMPUR,
Mon. — Private hospitals should not discriminate in their choice of patients especially accident victims and they should put profit second to service to the community, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Hitting hard at private hospitals which reportedly turned down emergency cases, he said that it was a moral responsibility for such health institutions to attend to patients who had been brought to their doors for treatment — especially accident victims.

Private hospitals should attend to emergency cases immediately and not question how much the patient could afford to pay.

"At least apply first aid and then you can send the patient to the nearest Government hospital," the Prime Minister said when officially opening the \$16 million Pusat Tawakkal Islam (Islamic Medical Centre) in Jalan Pahang here.

Congratulations

He reminded doctors, especially those who had left Government service, that there was no one else who was the boss but the patient.

Doctors can treat their patients without fear of billion-dollar law suits hanging over their heads as there is a limit to compensation in this country.

Doctors who are indifferent in their treatment and care of patients may lose their reputation as capable physicians.

The Prime Minister congratulated the centre for its bold step in conforming to the Government's privatisation policy.

He hoped doctors in Government hospitals would not leave to set up private health institutions as this could create a shortage of medical staff especially specialist doctors.