

CNS3939

U GE 07-06 00124 EA581

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Mahathir ''''

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SUBANG, June 7, (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hinted that the government is considering to allow foreign doctors to practice in Malaysia.

However, he said, certain conditions might be imposed to protect local doctors as well as Malaysians seeking treatment.

Speaking to reporters after addressing the second Malaysian Gynaecology and Obstetric Congress here, the Prime Minister said foreign doctors might be allowed to work in private hospitals and even to set up clinics.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said a detailed study on the matter would have to be made.

At present foreign doctors were allowed to work only with the government.-- more

♥07/06/13-01MST

U GE 07-06 00114 EA582

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Mahathir 2 Subang ''''

In his speech earlier, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said a review of the government's policy on foreign doctors was necessary to help ease the shortage of local doctors.

The move could also help reduce exorbitant fees charged by private clinics now, he said.

The high fees charged by these clinics had led to the poor patients thronging government hospitals, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the existing policy itself had contributed to the lucrative income for private doctors.

Attractive remunerations for private doctors had hampered government's efforts to retain doctors in public service, he said.-- more

♥07/06/13-17MST

U GE 07-06 00128 EA587

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Mahathir 3 Subang ''''

+There should a balance between the incomes of doctors in the private sector and that of those in the public sector so that the people get proper service,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir hinted that the government might recruit doctors from Asian and European countries.

(Presently there were about 50 foreign doctors serving in government hospitals).

The Prime Minister said the public health service could not compete with that available in the private sector despite the government providing several special facilities.

Director-General of Health Tan Sri Datuk Dr Abdullah Abdul Rahman, who was present at the opening ceremony, said he would discuss the matter with the Malaysian Medical Council.-- more

♥07/06/14-14MST

U GE 07-06 00114 EA588

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Mahathir 4 Subang '''

The Prime Minister said in his speech that the government would, within its means, set up well-equipped obstetric and gynaecology units in all hospitals.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir however said that building big and well-equipped hospitals was not the answer to improve health care for women or reduce mortality rate.

+What we need is a solid and quality basic health care system for mothers and infants, health education for for women and special care for them.

+More importantly, a health care and treatment system that we provide must be acceptable to the local community,+ he said. -- more

♥07/06/14-27MST

U GE 07-06 00118 EA589

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Mahathir 5 Subang '''

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said to realise the national objective of attaining developed nation status by 2020, the physical, mental and social health aspects of the family unit must be consolidated.

+The family unit is the basis for health and development. We will not be able to produce a future generation if it is trapped in social ills and by the life-styles of certain developed nations,+ he said.

Some 300 experts in Obstetric and Gynaecology (O & G) and suppliers of medical equipment are taking part in the three-day congress.

O & G services include pre-natal and post-natal and infant care.--  
Bernama

♥07/06/14-40MST