

CNS4288

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Mahathir-doctors

DON'T BE TOO HASTY TO RESIGN, PM TELLS GOVERNMENT DOCTORS

bm

JITRA, May 3 (Bernama) -- Prime minister <sup>193</sup> Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised doctors, especially the new ones serving in government hospitals, not to be too hasty to leave and join the private sector for higher remuneration. (P)

He said the government had spent a lot on their university education and he hoped they would continue to serve with the government for as long as they could.

"I hope our doctors will not be too calculating about money," he said when opening the Jitra hospital, here.

He said doctors should also give priority to service to maintain respect for themselves, the religion, people and country.

He also gave similar advice to nurses serving in government hospitals.

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KHY JK

03/05/18-22MST

CNS4230

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Dr Mahathir hoped that more people would join the medical profession to overcome the shortage of doctors and nurses in the country.

He said the government was aware of public complaints of poor service at government hospitals but if not many people were interested in joining the profession the hospitals would not have adequate staff to provide good service.

He said among the reasons many people were not interested in becoming doctors were the tough syllabus and the long study period of six years.

"If we do not want to work harder, in the end we are the ones to lose," he said.

He added that if the shortage of nurses and doctors could not be resolved, the government would have to recruit foreigners and this could cause problems to the people in the language aspect. -- more

KHY Jk

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Mahathir-doctors 3 Jitra

Speaking to reporter; later, he said the government constantly strove to minimise the incidence of negligence.

Asked to comment on the increasing number of incidents due to negligence of hospital staff recently, Dr Mahathir said he did not know whether it was true that there were now many such cases.

He said there could have been many such cases in the past which were not reported in the press but with the improvement in the information system such errors were getting more exposure.

However, he reminded all parties that if too many cases of negligence by doctors were taken to court for damages and compensation, the medical profession might have to pay higher insurance and the result was that they would impose higher fees on patients.

He said such situation had occurred in the United States where doctors conducted expensive and unnecessary tests on patients just to avoid being sued for negligence.

"In the end the public has to bear the burden," he said. -- more  
KHY JK

▼03/05/18-50MST

CNS4348

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Mahathir-doctors 4 (last) Jitra

The prime minister a balance must be struck between the interests of consumers and that of the profession, suppliers and others.

He said he would touch on the matter in his speech at a seminar on private hospitals in this era at the coming World Consumers Day.

Earlier, Deputy Health Minister Datuk Mohamad Farid Ariffin, representing Health Minister Datuk Lee Kim Sai, said RM195 had been allocated to Kedah under the Sixth Malaysia Plan for the building of new hospitals and health facilities.

Work on the RM2 million Jitra Hospital, located on a 16-hectare site, started in 1989 and was completed last September. Outpatient service started a month later and the maternity and men's and women's wards were opened in November.

Present at the function were Menteri Besar, Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff and the prime minister's wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali. -- Bernama

KHY JK

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Parliament - salary

PSD STUDYING POLICE MEMORANDUM ON PAY RISE

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- The Public Services Department (PSD) is studying the memorandum submitted by the Royal Malaysia Police on salary increase claims for police personnel, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

The Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Othman Abdul said the department received the memorandum on April 11 and submitted it to the PSD for further action.

"The government will give appropriate attention particularly from the aspect of allowances and other facilities; as the basic salary of police personnel had already been adjusted under the Civil Servants New Remuneration Scheme (SSB) in 1981," he told Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Tanjong) during Question Time.

Lin had asked the government to give fair consideration to the request from the police in view of the high risk involved in police work compared to other types of work.

Replying to Ahmad Nor (DAP-Bayan Baru), Othman said the salary of police personnel in Malaysia cannot be compared with that in other countries in view of the different situation and differences in income between Malaysia and other countries. -- more