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Mahathir-doctors

ASSOCIATIONS OF PROFESSIONALS TOLD NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN POLITICS

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LANGKAWI, June 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded associations of professionals that they will lose their integrity and the respect of society if they are involved in politics.

He said that such associations should give priority to professional ethics and standard of service.

"Members of such associations should always remember that the basic functions of the associations should be given priority," he said when opening the general meeting of the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) here tonight.

The associations should strive to improve the standard of the services and expertise of members to further enhance their integrity, he added.

Dr Mahathir said that members of the medical profession should be highly regarded and secure the confidence of the community they serve. -- more

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In this respect, he reminded the MMA not to allow the association to be used by some members for their own interest but to protect its image so that it would be highly regarded by society.

He said that doctors should always observe their professional ethics when discharging their duties.

Dr Mahathir said that in striving to upgrade services, doctors need to increase their knowledge and improve their expertise to keep abreast with the latest development in the medical field.

He said that incidents highlighted in the press recently could be reduced or prevented if doctors provide impeccable service and strive to improve interaction with patients. -- more

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He said that doctors should be sensitive to their environment and be pro-active in providing services.

Dr Mahathir said that they should also bear in mind that quality service at the present time might not be regarded so in future.

Therefore, he said, there should be a self-regulatory mechanism to monitor the standard of service.

The Prime Minister also said that the government would spend five per cent of the GNP for health services in the year 2000 and this was expected to increase to seven per cent by the year 2020.

He said that the government would certainly not be able to afford the increasing expenses for health service without affecting the allocation or needs of other services.

The time had therefore come for the role of the private medical sector in assisting in providing services affordable by more members of the community be reviewed, he added. -- Bernama

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