

Docs reminded to uphold their integrity

By PAUL GABRIEL

PULAU LANGKAWI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has again called on doctors to uphold their professional integrity so that they would not lose public respect.

He said it was up to the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) to build an image of "unassailable integrity."

A professional association should be more con-

cerned with its members' ethics and professionalism than "fixing fees," he said at the MMA's 33rd AGM at the Delima resort here last night.

Dr Mahathir said the association would lose the community's respect if it involved itself in politics or indulge in bickering and internal dissension.

On the other hand, if it were to dedicate itself to upgrading professional standards, it would boost the prestige of the profes-

sion.

"The MMA must never forget this. It must not allow itself to be used by a few members for their own ends.

"Instead, it must with dignity uphold the stature of the profession and build an image of integrity that is unassailable as more than any other profession, the medical profession needs the respect and trust of those whom it serves," he said.

Dr Mahathir stressed

that the interest and welfare of the patient should be the utmost consideration of doctors, adding that the doctor-patient relationship should always be nurtured for the good of both sides.

The Prime Minister said the Government appreciated the MMA's efforts to upgrade the standard of treatment for the sick and its sacrifices not only in the medical field but on the social and welfare front as well.

Society, he said, was getting more sophisticated and it was ironic criticisms towards the profession and medical institutions were occurring at a time when healthcare had improved and become "more accessible."

On private doctors, Dr Mahathir said the time had come for them to create a "self regulatory" mechanism, along the lines of the Health Ministry's quality assurance programme.