

07 MAY 1996

Chua-Dialogue

HEALTH MINISTRY SEEKS TOTAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STATUS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- The Health Ministry is aiming for a total community involvement status with the cooperation of the industrial and trade sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"I am confident that with this three-way cooperation, the status will be achieved," Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said today.

He said in an effort to enhance relations with NGOs, a registration unit had been set up for the benefit of organisations requiring information and assistance from the ministry.

So far, 170 NGOs have registered with the unit, 90 of which are attending a four-day dialogue at the ministry here, Chua told reporters before chairing the final session of the dialouge.

This is the first time the ministry is holding such a dialouge and it is aimed at getting feedback and suggestions on relevant issues to improve the ministry's performance, he said.

He hoped that through the dialogue, minor issues could be resolved and major ones taken up for follow-up action.

On the Seventh Malaysia Plan tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Chua expressed confidence that the allocation for his ministry would help bring about major changes in the health and medical sector.

The ministry will ensure that the medical system in the country is one of the most modern and that it is also enjoyed by the lower income group, he said.

Chua reminded private hopitals of their social obligations in treating lower income patients and setting up branches in the rural areas.

Today's dialogue session was attended by representatives from 14 NGOs including the Red Crescent Society, Islamic Medical Association, Malaysian Haemophiliac Society, National Kidney Foundation and Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (Abim). -- BERNAMA

NZ ZUL SK