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Telemedicine

TELEMEDICINE SERVICE BY YEAR END

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 (Bernama) -- The government hopes to implement all the telemedicine projects by the end of this year or early next year, Director-General of Health Tan Sri Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman said today.

The Health Ministry would send the final report on the matter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in June, he told reporters after attending a demonstration on the "Telemedicine in Obstetrics" programme, here.

Everything would depend on the equipment and the facilities available, he said, adding that two important elements of the application were video conferencing and tele-radiology.

Telemedicine is one of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) applications which enables the exchange of information on health and health services from all over the world.

Dr Abu Bakar said the ministry would use the models of several developed countries for the implementation of the telemedicine service, including on the costs which had to be borne by the patients.

He said that in the United States of America, for example, the hospitals practising telemedicine claimed the costs from the patients and insurance companies but in Australia, the costs were difficult to ascertain because they varied according to the areas or states.

Earlier, he opened the Kuala Lumpur Hospital's Day Care Obstetrics Unit and Obstetrics and Gynaecology training centre. -- BERNAMA

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