

30 MAY 1998

HEALTH FINANCING SCHEME BEST RUN BY GOVT CORP

KUALA LUMPUR, May 30 (Bernama) -- Public interests will be better served if the proposed National Health Financing Scheme is run by a government-owned corporation, a delegate told the 45th MCA General Assembly here today.

Dr Milton Lum, from the Federal Territory MCA, said the move would keep administration costs to the minimum by efficient management while the surplus funds could be utilised for the improvement of services to the public.

" With our limited resources, we cannot afford wasteful and extravagant American health system, where about 25 to 30 per cent of the funds were spent on administration," he said when debating on the presidential address at the one-day assembly opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He also said the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department should invite consumer representatives and medical professionals for discussions.

Their expertise and knowledge on the healthcare system could be tapped for the benefits of all Malaysians, said Dr Lum, who is the immediate past president of the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA).

-- BERNAMA

RV TS