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Plan to help poor get medical aid

IPOH, Sun. - The Malaysian Medical Association will propose the setting up of a non-profit national financing authority to provide healthcare facilities to the poor and chronically ill.

MMA president Dr P. Krishnan said the plan would be included in a blueprint to be submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October.

Dr Krishnan said MMA's document was not a duplicate of the Government's national health policy proposed during the mid-term review of the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

"We are finalising our proposal," he said, adding that discussions with trade unions, consumers bodies and professional organisations revealed that they were amenable to the plan.

He said the proposed authority must be a non-profit organisation and answerable to the Government.

"This is the only way the poor and chronically ill will have access to healthcare facilities," he said after attending the Perak branch MMA annual dinner at a hotel yesterday.

He said the document would also outline other priority areas.

Dr Krishnan said the MMA was against privatisation of government hospitals but not corporatisation if it was not profit motivated.

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