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Rais-Forensic (With pix)

MALAYSIA NEEDS HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL FORENSIC MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- Forensic medicine in Malaysia needs to be developed to a high professional level as the law demands substantial amount of evidence from the medical sector, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim.

He said there were lots of cases which required doctors to give evidence in court.

"We have had about 5,200 cases in the last seven years which involved accident injury and the need for testimony of doctors," he told reporters after attending the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM) "Surgery 2000 Dinner" here tonight.

He also said efforts should be stepped up to increase the doctor to population ratio from the current 1 doctor per 1,477 citizens to 1:400 as had been achieved by developed nations.

He said between 1979 and 1999, HUKM produced a total of 2,696 doctors of whom 239 are specialist surgeons.

"It's an achievement ... being the first medical school in the country to have produced locally trained surgeons," he said.

Asked about the Umno elections in May, Dr Rais said he would support Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the number one and two posts respectively.

"I will not support anyone who would challenge the two," he said but added that did not mean the right to contest for the posts was not there.

"It is up to them (the aspirants) to consider the opinion or advice of the Umno Supreme Council (which recently decided there should be no contest for the posts of president and deputy president)."

He said from his experience throughout the years, it was now time for unity and to solve problems that have beset Umno.

-- BERNAMA

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