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Chua-Anwar

ANWAR MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SURGERY BY GERMAN SPECIALIST

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim must accept responsibility for the surgery to be performed by a German specialist as the request to have a foreign surgeon treat him is his decision entirely.

"I must say again, if anything goes wrong, surely I, as the patient who asks for this extraordinary privilege, must be responsible. What's so unreasonable about that?" he told reporters at his ministry here, today.

Yesterday, Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail said she was grateful to the government for allowing a German spine specialist treat her husband but felt that the three other conditions imposed were "too onerous".

The three conditions imposed were that Anwar be solely responsible for any and all risks and disabilities involved, the specialist must examine him within 14 days from February 10 and the examination must be held entirely at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

The other condition agreed by Anwar's family were to bear all costs, fees and expenses whatsoever relating to the consultation, examination, procedures and treatment performed by the specialist, Dr Thomas Hoogland.

They also accepted the condition to allow local specialists to be present during the medical examination and surgery.

Chua said, Anwar should have the same confidence as the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and himself, who were all operated by local surgeons.

"I as a Malaysian, have confidence in my people, in their expertise," he said, adding the government prepared a team of eight specialists to look after the former Deputy Prime Minister.

"If I am Datuk Anwar... I am in pain and there's a team of about eight highly competent specialists looking after me, I'll do the surgery straight away if they ask me to do so," he said.

Anwar, who has been warded at the HKL since November, is serving a six year jail sentence for abuse of power and another nine years for sodomy.

-- BERNAMA

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