

16/10/2001

'Emergency staff must be trained adequately'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Emergency medical staff should be adequately trained in pre-hospital care management and life support skills, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali said today.

The wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said such services were important in ensuring patients got proper treatment immediately on summoning help.

"Following the "Golden Hour" principle, a patient's morbidity and mortality can be improved significantly if active or specific preventions are administered correctly. This is an important concept to instil in all emergency medical staff," she said when opening the second International Congress on Emergency Medicine here today.

According to Dr Siti Hasmah, teaching of life support courses such as Basic Life Support (BLS), First Responder Life Support (FRLS), Malaysian Trauma Life Support (MLTS), Advanced Cardiac life Support (ACLS) and Paediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) must be made mandatory for all emergency medical staff.

However, there are very few people trained in emergency medicine in the country," she said, adding that the ambulance must also be well equipped to complement paramedics.

Dr Siti Hasmah, in addressing the participants of the conference, also encouraged the setting up of more "one stop crisis centre" in hospitals to handle victims of abuse and violence.

She also spoke on the importance of "injury prevention" in emergency medicine and the need to network among hospitals in giving the best treatment to patients.

"At present, only Hospital Selayang and Hospital Putrajaya practice the paper-less concept. With the concept, doctors from various hospitals can interact with one another without being physically present at the respective hospitals.

The three-day congress is jointly organised by the Health Ministry, the Malaysian Society of Traumatology and Emergency Medicine (Mastem) and the Postgraduate Committee for Emergency Medicine.

The congress, attended by medical personnel from Australia, Cyprus, France, Hong Kong, Canada, Bangladesh, Indonesia, United Kingdom, United States, Singapore and Malaysia, ends on Wednesday.

(END)