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Chua-Hospital

POSITIVE RESPONSE EXPECTED FROM HOSPITALS TO PM'S CALL

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng today expressed confidence that private hospitals will respond positively to the Prime Minister's call to them to reduce fees for the poor.

"I will have a meeting with the Private Hospitals Association of Malaysia to discuss ways by which they can heed the Prime Minister's call," he said.

He said it was part of the social responsibility in the medical profession to save lives and provide help in an emergency.

Chua, who is also Chairman of the National Small and Medium Industries (SMI) Consultative Centre, was speaking at a news conference about the Malaysia-China Economic Conference here.

Dr Mahathir in his speech at the 10th annual dinner of the National Heart Institute (IJN) last night asked private hospitals to reduce the medical fees for the poor needing treatment and surgery.

The Prime Minister had said that if Malaysians were willing to donate money for the poor in need of medical help, there was no reason why the private hospitals and specialists should not do likewise.

On the fund to help the poor in need of medical attention, Chua said several private hospitals had already set up the Caring Fund to help the poor.

He said the Cabinet recently decided that the Director General of Health study cases of chronic diseases and decide whether the person should go for treatment in government or private hospitals or go for overseas treatment.

"If the person is to be referred to private hospitals, newspapers can continue to launch fund raising campaigns for the person," he said.

However the media which was organising the campaign should get hold of the relevant medical papers and documents from the ailing person and submit them to the Director-General of Health for evaluation.

-- BERNAMA

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