

Common exam plan axed, but medical graduates still need to complete housemanship
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By ALYCIA LIM

KUALA LUMPUR: Medical graduates from recognised universities will not have to sit for a common examination before practising in Malaysia.

[Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai](#) said the ministry had decided not to amend the Medical Act 1971 requiring all medical graduates to sit for a common examination.

However, they would still be required to complete two years of housemanship.

"The Cabinet has decided to continue with the present system of monitoring the performance of universities and give recognition to those of high quality."

Liow said this at a press conference after attending the launch of the fourth leadership camp for secondary school students in Mandarin societies nationwide yesterday.

He added that only graduates from unrecognised universities would be required to sit for the examination, and advised students and parents against taking up courses offered by these institutions.

"Students can go to the Higher Education Ministry and the Public Service Department website for the full list of recognised universities.

Liow said there were over 300 universities recognised by Malaysia.

The Star reported last December that many had advocated amending the Medical Act 1971 to make the Medical Qualifying Examination compulsory for all students, as students from recognised schools could also fall short of expected standards.

Currently, the exam is only administered to students from unrecognised foreign medical schools.

Liow also encouraged secondary school students to adopt lifelong learning.

On the concerns of tainted food caused by di-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), a carcinogenic chemical found in a clouding agent from Taiwan, Liow explained that Malaysia was not included in the list of companies which the agent was sold to.

He added that all products previously found to be tainted with DEHP have been recalled, and the ministry would continue to take all measures to prevent any contaminated food from entering the country.

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