

**Parliament: RM140,000 Compound For Four Errant IPT
Bernama
March 26, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 26 (Bernama) -- Four institutions of higher learning (IPT) were compounded RM140,000 for admitting students who did not meet minimum requirements for diploma nursing courses, Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chung said the highest compound issued was RM60,000 to Institut Teknologi Lanjutan Sarawak followed by Lincoln University College (RM40,000), Kolej Seri Manjung (RM30,000) and International College of Health Sciences (RM10,000).

"Following many complaints and feedback received from various parties, we believe that legal action is among the best measures to control the quality of nurses in the country," he said in reply to a question by Dr Michael Jeyakumar Devraj (PSM-Sungai Siput).

Jeyakumar wanted to know the number of students admitted in 2011 to diploma courses in physiotherapy, pharmacology, healthcare and medical laboratory technology.

Hou said that to stop it from recurring, the ministry also enforced the moratorium on diploma nursing courses in IPT.

The Malaysian Nursing Board also determined that students who wished to do nursing courses must have five credits in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination since last year compared with three credits previously.

"Following this move, the number of students taking diploma nursing courses declined to 7,841 last year compared to 10,025 in 2010," he added.

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