

**Health Ministry To Iron GST Issues With Finance Ministry, Customs  
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 (Bernama) -- The Health Ministry will be meeting the Finance Ministry and Customs Department to iron out issues on the implementation of the six per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on professional fees charged by doctors in private hospitals for consultation.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said he would meet both parties in a few of weeks'time to discuss and explain on how the private medical system in the country really worked.

"Actually there is a perception that the department is not clear about the GST implementation on the medical sector structure.

"I hope after I meet both parties, the department will come with a clearer guideline," he told reporters after attending a Healthcare Forum 2015 near here, today.

Dr Subramaniam was asked to comment on the plan by the private medical fraternity to sue the government for its intention to impose the GST on doctors' fees for consultation and procedures in private hospitals.

Local media reported today that the medical fraternity planned to institute legal challenge against the government on the new guideline from the department regarding the GST implementation starting April 1.

Meanwhile, commenting on the government's proposal to separate the functions of clinics and pharmacies, Dr Subramaniam said the government had yet make any decision on the matter.

He stressed the government would not make any decision which would burden the public.

On Feb 20, the Malaysian Doctors Club with a membership of more than 8,000 doctors from the private clinics and non-governmental organisations in the medical field protested the proposal.

The Healthcare Forum 2015 themed "Malaysian Healthcare: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges" and organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) discusses various topics on healthcare industry.

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