

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN  
 MUKA SURAT : 5  
 RUANGAN : DASAR & PENTADBIRAN

# Kementerian mohon JPA buka pengambilan jururawat

④ Langkah atasi kekurangan kakitangan di hospital, klinik kesihatan

Oleh Ahmad Suhael Adnan  
 ahmad.suhael@bh.com.my

■ Serdang

**K**ementerian Kesihatan sudah memohon Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA), membenarkan pelantikan bagi perjawatan jururawat untuk mengatasi kekurangan tenaga petugas berkenaan di hospital dan klinik kesihatan awam.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, berkata kementerian maklum dengan isu kekurangan jururawat dan sedang berusaha mengatasinya.

“Kita faham isu ini, moratorium dikenakan bagi perjawatan jururawat, tapi kami masih memohon untuk jawatan ini dibekalkan tambahan.

“Kami harap ia akan diluluskan dalam tempoh munasabah, ketika ekonomi kita pulih dan menjadi lebih baik,” katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas majlis perasmian Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa oleh Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail di Tapak Ekspo Pertanian Ma-



**Dr Dzulkefly, Swee Kam (tiga dari kiri), Dr Wan Azizah dan Emmalice pada majlis perasmian Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa di MAEPS, Serdang, semalam.**

laysia (MAEPS), di sini, semalam.

## Lambakan graduan

Pada 9 Jun tahun lalu, Dr Dzulkefly dilaporkan berkata, Dasar Mengoptimumkan Sumber Manusia dilaksanakan kerajaan lalu, menjadi punca lambakan graduan doktor perubatan dan jururawat, yang masih belum mendapat penempatan di hospital kerajaan.

Terdahulu, Dr Wan Azizah dalam ucapannya, mengimbau peranan jururawat dalam membantu kerjayanya, khususnya membentuk keyakinan diri ketika beliau bermula sebagai doktor pelatih.

“Ketika bermula sebagai doktor pelatih, saya agak takut dan gementar, namun jururawat banyak membantu memudahkan perjalanan kerjaya saya.

“Saya amat menghargai jururawat, contohnya bila buat pembedahan, kami dalam situasi tertekan jika minum kopi (sebelum pembedahan) tangan boleh menggigil.

## Sumbangan jururawat

“Namun, jururawat meredakan keadaan apabila mereka seolah-olah dapat membaca fikiran, dengan memberi semua peralatan diperlukan (tanpa diminta). Itulah jururawat terbaik,” katanya sambil menambah, jurura-

wat banyak memberi sokongan dan tunjuk ajar sehingga beliau lebih yakin ketika bertugas.

Majlis turut menganugerahkan gelaran Tokoh Jururawat 2019 (Pendidikan) dan Tokoh Jururawat 2019 (Perkhidmatan), masing-masing kepada Boey Swee Kam dan Emmalice Jaboh.

Swee Kam memberi pelbagai sumbangan sebagai pakar perbidanan, selain banyak membantu gerakan Liga Jururawat Terlatih Pusat Malaya, sebelum ia bergelar Persatuan Jururawat Malaysia (MNA) pada 1981. Emmalice pula disifatkan penggerak utama penubuhan MNA Sarawak pada 1978.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO  
MUKA SURAT : 2  
RUANGAN : SETEMPAT

## Cekik wartawan rakam video di HSB

**Alor Setar:** "Niat saya hanya untuk merakam video sebagai bukti apabila berlaku kekecohan, tetapi berlaku salah saham membabitkan pengawal keselamatan terbabit hingga dia mencikik dan mengasari saya," kata Tan Guan Cheong.

Tan, 55, wartawan akhbar The Star Kedah mendakwa selain itu, beberapa pengawal keselamatan Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah (HSB) turut mencekik dan mengasari wartawan Utusan Malaysia yang cuba melaikan kekecohan itu.

Katanya, kejadian berlaku jam 12.40 tengah malam ketika dia bersama lapan wartawan dari pelbagai agensi termasuk Harian Metro, Astro Awani, Kosmo, Sinar Harian dan Utusan Malaysia membuat liputan kes membabitkan kematian kanak-kanak lelaki berusia 11 tahun yang terbelit tali pengikat langsir di Jabatan Forensik HSB.

"Ketika itu, saya duduk di

lantai membuat berita dan tiba-tiba berlaku kekecohan antara beberapa wartawan dengan pengawal keselamatan yang bertugas di situ.

"Ketika itu, saya tak pasti apa puncanya, tetapi daripada perbualan mereka, ia berpunca daripada dua wartawan yang merakam video di kawasan rumah mayat berkenaan," katanya.

Tan berkata, ketika itu, pengawal keselamatan wanita didakwa cuba menghantui keluarga si mati supaya merakam gambar wartawan walaupun perselisihan antara wartawan dan keluarga mangsa sudah selesai.

Dalam pada itu, Pengarah HSB, Dr Zaiton Udin memohon maaf dengan apa yang berlaku dan memberitahu akan menjalankan siasatan berhubung kes itu.

"Maaf atas apa yg belaku. Saya akan buat siasatan. Terima kasih kerana maklumkan hal ini," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

**FAKTA**  
*Sembilan wartawan dari pelbagai agensi buat liputan kes kematian kanak-kanak lelaki*



WARTAWAN bersama jurugambar dari pelbagai agensi media Kedah menunjukkan salinan laporan polis yang dibuat.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

MUKA SURAT : 20

RUANGAN : SETEMPAT



DR Wan Azizah bersama Dr Dzulkefly bersama 3,000 jururawat pada sambutan Hari Jururawat peringkat kebangsaan di MAEPS, semalam.

## 'Mereka bak tangan kanan saya'

■ Dr Wan Azizah zahir penghargaan kepada jururawat sempena Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa 2019

Rizanizam Abdul Hamid  
rizzanizam@metro.com.my

Serdang

**S**ambutan Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa 2019 semalam agak beremosi apabila Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail yang juga bekas pakar mata mencurahkan penghargaannya kepada jururawat di negara ini.

Ia bermula ketika beliau berucap di hadapan kira-kira 3,000 jururawat pada sambutan itu di Dewan D, Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia (MAEPS), Serdang di sini, apabila ucapannya beliau tiba-tiba 'lari' daripada kandungan asal teks ucapan rasmi yang disejukan.

"Jururawatlah yang memberi saya keyakinan untuk menjadi seorang doktor muda selepas keluar



SEBAHAGIAN jururawat memberi gaya istimewa sempena sambutan Hari Jururawat 2019, semalam.

dari sekolah perubatan.

"Jururawat memberi kita sokongan dan tunjuk ajar. Mereka tahu apa yang lebih baik sebab mereka ada di sana," katanya yang turut menyatakan.

Dr Wan Azizah melanjutkan pengajian ke Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI), Dublin, Ireland pada 1973 dan dianugerahkan pingat emas MacNoughton-Jones Gold Medal pada 1977 dalam bidang obstetrik dan ginekologi sebelum menamatkan pengajian sebagai pakar matematik.

"Bahkan, ketika saya masih seorang doktor, saya selalu menganggap jururawat sebagai tangan kanan saya terutama ketika pembedahan dan khidmat nasihat," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau yang juga Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat berkata, kejayaannya menjadi doktor juga adalah hasil kekuatan yang diperolehnya

daripada jururawat. "Saya dapat rasaikan kekuatan itu dan sebab itulah saya berjaya menjadi doktor," katanya.

Beliau pernah bertugas sebagai pakar oftalmologi di Hospital Besar Kuala Lumpur (Hospital Kuala Lumpur) dan di Hospital Universiti, Universiti Malaya (Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya).

**FAKTA**  
3,000 jururawat hadir pada sambutan Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa 2019 di MAEPS, Serdang

Serdang

KKM mohon pelantikan jawatan jururawat daripada JPA

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) akan terus memohon pelantikan jawatan jururawat daripada Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) bagi mengatasi masalah kekurangan jururawat di negara ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, kementerian memahami isu dihadapi ketika ini dan berusaha untuk menyelesaikannya.

"Kita faham, moratorium dikenakan pada perjawatan jururawat.

"Kami masih lagi memohon daripada JPA untuk mendapatkan tambahan supaya ia dapat diberikan dalam waktu yang munasabah ketika ekonomi kita pulih dan menjadi lebih baik," katanya selepas sambutan Hari Jururawat

Antarabangsa 2019.

di Dewan D, Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia (MAEPS) Serdang di sini, semalam.

Perasmian itu disempurnakan Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Hadir sama, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdulla dan Presiden Persatuan Jururawat Malaysia, Sharipah Asiah Syed Junid Ajunid.

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, negara belum mencapai sasaran nisbah Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) iaitu seorong jururawat bagi 200 penduduk.

"Pada masa ini, nisbah seorang jururawat kita adalah untuk 300 penduduk dan kita masih memohon tambahan daripada JPA," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEGARA

## Jururawat merupakan 'tangan kanan' seorang doktor

SERDANG - Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail menyifatkan golongan jururawat merupakan 'tangan kanan' seorang doktor.

Justeru, katanya, jururawat di negara ini dinasihati untuk mengimbangi antara kerjaya dan kehidupan peribadi selain sentiasa meningkatkan kemahiran serta mempelajari teknik baharu dalam bidang kejururawatan.

Jelas beliau, keseimbangan tersebut perlu ada kerana jururawat juga merupakan manusia biasa.

"Mereka perlu ada keseimbangan antara kerjaya dan kehidupan peribadi. Bukan mudah untuk melayan kerena pesakit



WAN AZIZAH (tiga dari kiri) beramah mesra dengan dua penerima Anugerah Tokoh Jururawat 2019, Emmalice (dua dari kanan) dan Swee Kam (dua dari kiri) sambil diperhatikan Dzulkefly (kiri) pada Majlis Hari Jururawat Peringkat Kebangsaan 2019 di MAEPS, Serdang semalam.

dan ada ketikanya, doktor sendiri pun tidak mampu untuk me-

lakukannya tetapi berbeza dengan jururawat.

"Ketika saya berkhidmat sebagai seorang doktor, saya sering menjadikan jururawat sebagai tangan kanan terutamanya dalam menjalani pembedaan dan perbincangan dengan pesakit," katanya ketika berucap pada sambutan Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa 2019 di Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia (MAEPS) di sini semalam.

Turut hadir, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad dan Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian, Datuk Seri Dr. Chen Chaw Min.

Terdahulu, beliau menyampaikan anugerah khas kepada dua orang tokoh jururawat iaitu Emmalice Jabob (tokoh jururawat perkhidmatan) dan Boey Swee

Kam (tokoh jururawat pendidikan).

Hari Jururawat disambut pada 12 Mei setiap tahun sempena kelahiran pengasas kejururawatan moden, Florence Nightingale. Sementara itu, Dzulkefly berkata, pihaknya masih dalam usaha memohon untuk menambah bilangan jururawat di seluruh negara.

"Kita sedar dan faham masalah kekurangan jururawat. Kita masih dalam permohonan untuk menambah bagi mencapai sasaran nisbah Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia iaitu seorang jururawat bagi 200 penduduk."

"Buat masa ini, nisbah seorang jururawat adalah untuk 300 penduduk," jelasnya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 4

RUANGAN : NEGARA



**DIRAIKAN**

LEBIH 100 orang jururawat hadir pada sambutan Hari Jururawat peringkat kebangsaan di Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia Serdang, Selangor semalam.

**AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN**  
**MUKA SURAT : 8**  
**RUANGAN : NASIONAL**

## Dr Wan Azizah imbas kenangan bekerja dengan jururawat

SERDANG - Sempena Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa semalam, Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail mengimbas kembali kenangan bekerja bersama jururawat sewaktu beliau menjadi pakar oftalmologi.

Dr Wan Azizah berkata, beliau menghargai peranan jururawat yang banyak membantu meringankan beban tugas doktor.

Menurutnya, ketika awal beliau menjadi pakar bedah mata itu, jururawatlah yang banyak memberikannya keyakinan untuk melakukan pembedahan.

"Mula-mula jadi doktor dulu, jururawat banyak beri saya sokongan dan tunjuk ajar. Mereka sangat arif dalam bidang perubatan berbanding saya ketika itu doktor muda yang baru keluar universiti.

"Tanpa mereka, saya pasti



Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (dua dari kiri) bersalaman bersama jururawat di Serdang, semalam. Turut hadir, Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (kiri).

sukar untuk melakukannya, terima kasih jururawat," katanya di hadapan lebih 3,000 jururawat sewaktu ucapan perasmian Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa 2019, di Tapak Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia Serdang (Mapes), di sini, semalam.

Ucapan Dr Wan Azizah itu turut

mendapat tepukan gemuruh.

Hadir sama, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

Dr Wan Azizah pernah menjadi pakar oftalmologi di Hospital Besar Kuala Lumpur dan Hospital Universiti Malaya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN  
 MUKA SURAT : 37  
 RUANGAN : SENTRAL

# Wartawan dikasari pengawal

*Kejadian berlaku di kawasan Unit Forensik Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah*

ROSHILA MURNI ROSLI

ALOR SETAR

Dua wartawan mendakwa dikasari pengawal keselamatan Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah (HSB) ketika membuat laporan di Unit Forensik di sini malam kelmarin.

Dalam kejadian kira-kira jam 12.40 tengah malam itu, sembilan wartawan sedang membuat laporan seorang kanak-kanak yang meninggal dunia akibat terjerut tali buaian.

Mereka kemudiannya didatangi ahli keluarga mangsa di ka-



Beberapa wartawan cuba melerakkan pergelutan yang berlaku di Unit Forensik Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah semalam.

wasan parkir Unit Forensik yang enggan membenarkan rakaman pada malam itu disiarkan.

Pihak wartawan akur dengan permintaan tersebut dan beredar dari hospital.

Bagaimanapun, seorang pengawal keselamatan wanita yang berada di situ mengeluarkan kata-kata kesasaran dan menimbulkan provokasi supaya ahli keluarga mengambil dan menularkan gambar

kesemua wartawan terbabit.

Ketika itu juga berlaku perang mulut antara beberapa wartawan dengan pengawal keselamatan di situ sebelum salah seorang daripadanya bertindak menyerang dan mencelik jurugambar The Star, Eric Tan yang sedang merekod video sebagai bukti.

Wartawan Utusan Malaysia, Muhammad Aify Ahmad yang cuba melerakkan serangan tersebut turut dicelik oleh pengawal keselamatan terbabit.



Wartawan terlibat menunjukkan laporan polis yang dibuat di Balai Polis Langgar semalam.

info

Seorang wartawan dari The Star dan seorang Wartawan dari Utusan Malaysia dakwa dicelik pengawal keselamatan

tindakan susulan terhadap kesemua pengawal keselamatan yang dilakukan turut memohon maaf dan akan mengambil

Susulan kejadian itu, satu laporan polis dibuat di Balai Polis Langgar.

Ketua Polis Daerah Kota Setar, Asisten Komisioner Mohd Rozi Jidin mengesahkan kejadian dan akan menyiasat perkara tersebut.

Pihak pengurusan hospital yang dilibutgi turut memohon maaf dan akan mengambil

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 2

RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI



WAN AZIZAH WAN ISMAIL beramah mesra dengan dua penerima Anugerah Tokoh Jururawat 2019, Emmalice Jaboh (kanan) dan Boey Swee Kam sambil diperhatikan oleh Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad dalam majlis sambutan Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa 2019 di MAEPS, Serdang, Selangor, semalam. - UTUSAN/MOHD. NAJIB MOHD. NOR

# Sokongan terhadap PH tidak merosot

Oleh AZMAN IBRAHIM

[pengarang@utusan.com.my](mailto:pengarang@utusan.com.my)

■ KUALA LUMPUR 12 MEI

**S**OKONGAN rakyat tidak merosot terhadap Pakatan Harapan (PH) sebagaimana digembar-gemburkan dan ia telah diterjemah berdasarkan kemenangan pada Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) Parliment Sandakan, semalam.

Presidennya, Datuk Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail berkata, sepanjang PRK itu, PH juga mendapat kerjasama yang baik daripada Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan).

"Alhamdulillah PH menang dengan kerjasama Warisan di

Sabah.

"Ini menunjukkan bahawa memang merosotlah apa-apa hujah mengatakan kita menujun dalam mendapat sokongan rakyat. Sekurang-kurangnya di Sandakan kita telah memenangi PRK," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas menghadiri Hari Jururawat Antarabangsa 2019 di Tapak Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia Serdang (MAEPS), Serdang dekat sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir pada majlis itu ialah Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad; Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Chen Chaw Min dan Ketua Pengarah

Kesihatan, Datuk Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah.

PH menerusi DAP mempertahankan kerusi Parliment Sandakan selepas calonnya, Vivian Wong Shir Yee, 30, menewaskan empat pencabarannya pada PRK kawasan itu, semalam.

Vivian memperoleh undi majoriti sebanyak 11,521 undi, selepas mendapat 16,012 undi.

Selain Vivian, PRK itu ditandingi calon Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), Datuk Linda Tsen Thau Lin yang mendapat 4,491 undi dan tiga calon Bebas iaitu Hamzah Abdullah, 65, (788 undi) Chia Siew Yung, 46, (178 undi) dan Sulaiman Samat, 36, mendapat sebanyak 126 undi.

AKHBAR : NEWS STRAIT TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN :

MEDIA PRIMA BHD, MALAYSIA'S TOP CHOICE FOR MOBILE CONTENT • KAJAI AWARD WINNER OF 2014 &amp; 2015

PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

# 'WE NEED MORE OF THEM'

HEALTH Ministry wants Public Service Department to lift moratorium on recruitment of nurses.

» REPORT ON PAGE 5



**AKHBAR : NEWS STRAIT TIMES**  
**MUKA SURAT : 10**  
**RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION**

FIRST YEAR

# 'ENSURING HEALTH FOR ALL'

Dr Dzulkefly says biggest challenge is medical graduate placements

TEH ATHIRA YUSOF  
PUTRAJAYA  
news@nst.com.my

**H**AVING steered the Health Ministry for the past year, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad acknowledged that his greatest challenge is to ensure a healthier life for all Malaysians.

The health minister took over the portfolio armed with a clear mission and kicked it off by tackling the smoking ban as well as the health screening programme, PeKa B40, for the low-income segment.

PeKa B40 seeks to tackle non-communicable diseases (NCDs), especially among the underprivileged.

"Almost half of Malaysians are faced with NCDs, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes."

"The programme caters to the B40 group aged 50 and above, providing medical devices, incentive to complete cancer treatments and transport aid to receive treatment at hospitals run by the Health Ministry."

"It is not merely a manifesto promise, but PeKa B40 is a game changer in handling NCDs, with 2,443 people having gone for health screening up to April 29," he said.

Dr Dzulkefly said this in a special interview in conjunction with the first anniversary of Pakatan Harapan's victory in the 14th General Election in May last year.

He said premature death among Malaysians was 220 per 100,000 people, higher than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.

"The country's premature death rate is alarming. OECD countries have 95 avoidable deaths per 100,000 population and even Sri Lanka recorded 116 avoidable deaths per 100,000 population."

"Premature deaths are due to complications from undiagnosed diabetes and hypertension," he said.

Dr Dzulkefly said the smoking ban, which took effect on Jan 1,



A nurse, Siti Zubaidah Ishak, placing the PeKa B40 stickers at the entrance of a clinic in Kuala Lumpur recently. PIC BY MAHZIR MAT ISA

was part of his NCD campaign and it has proven fruitful.

It has seen more smokers looking to stop their habit, with the number of those pledging to quit increasing from the previous year.

The Health Ministry is giving priority to addressing the issue of expensive medicine and drug prices.

The cabinet has given the green light on the proposal to regulate drug prices.

He said the proposed mechanism to regulate the prices would be tabled at the next parliamentary session.

It would be tabled by the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry and will come under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011.

The ceiling price of drugs and medicines in Malaysia will be set at the manufacturer and retail levels, but the ministry will refer to the prices of the items in Australia, Europe and the United States for guidance.

"The private sector may not be very comfortable with this, but we are forced to find a solution that fits all. We cannot be selective. If the private sector pricing is too costly for the public, then the government hospitals will be congested. So it has to be a win-win situation," he said.

Another move the Health Ministry will look into is the forma-

tion of the Health Advisory Council, comprising doctors and health experts, to advise the ministry, especially on ways to strengthen the public-private collaboration in healthcare.

The Kuala Selangor member of parliament is also aware that one of the biggest challenges he faces is the medical graduate placements.

Dr Dzulkefly said that Malaysia had insufficient facilities to support medical training programmes.

"We are not able to sustain the influx of housemen due to facility constraints. It is not that there are too many doctors, but the lack of facilities to support the training in the 54 hospitals nationwide."

"The country would need more doctors, the target is to bring down the ratio from 520 to one doctor to 450 to one doctor."

He said the ministry was working hard to resolve the problem despite the current financial constraint.

Dr Dzulkefly said in order to address the problem, they were introducing a pilot project involving virtual clinics, which would see patients' appointments with doctors or medical officers done through teleconferencing. This would address the issues of long waiting period and parking space constraints.

"Unfortunately, these are not overnight solutions, and would require regulation and studies. When the economy improves, I can tell you we can stop the moratorium on not engaging them."

Dr Dzulkefly said by the end of PH's first term as the government, Malaysia's healthcare spending would have increased to 5.5 per cent of the GDP.

"I hope it will be almost six per cent when the term ends as it will be what developed country's public sector needs to spend on healthcare."

"Moving forward, we will also be expanding and in particular the private sector would drive the increment of healthcare spending," he said.

Dr Dzulkefly acknowledged that Malaysia's public healthcare was both underfunded and understaffed. This was despite a RM2 billion increase in the 2019 Budget allocation for his ministry to RM29 billion, which was only 2.2 per cent of Malaysia's GDP.

"The allocation for the health sector is not sufficient," he said, adding that the lack of funds had caused a workforce imbalance between the public and private sectors.

He said there were only 40 per cent of experts in the public sector to provide services for 60 per cent of patients.

"There are not many experts, but they are the best in the government hospitals."

"When there are medical complications, they (private sector) will send the patients to the government hospitals," he said.

Dr Dzulkefly remained optimistic in providing the best healthcare system for the people during this tenure as the health minister.

Ceiling price for drugs may affect private sector, says hospital group

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government's implementation of a ceiling drug price would affect the private healthcare sector, said the Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia (APHM).

Its president, Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh, said the private medical sector would need to find an avenue for its direct and indirect costs. This varied across private hospitals depending on their locations, level of service and specialities. "We fully support the push for greater transparency and efforts to rein in medical inflation. However, this has to be thought through carefully to avoid unintended policy outcomes that would hurt Malaysia."

Dr Kuljit said if the implementation of ceiling price for medicine and drugs did not take into consideration the entire healthcare financing structure, and without the involvement and cooperation of the players, it would ultimately cause the Malaysian private healthcare sector to collapse.

He said the medication administration involved other costs, such as medication review, drug counselling, compliance monitoring and titration of dosage as a patient's condition changes.

He said APHM had met the Pharmaceutical Services Division to discuss the matter on Feb 28.

Health Minister Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the government would work with the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry to carry out a proposal to put in place a ceiling price on medicine.

Dr Dzulkefly said the ceiling price would refer to the average of three lowest prices, which would then be imposed at the wholesale stage and retail level at clinics, pharmacies and hospitals.

Malaysia Pharmaceutical Society president Amrahi Buang said the pharmaceutical industry would benefit from a floor price.

"For the pharmaceutical industry, at the retail level, having a floor price would provide an even playing field as we have three categories — independent, small chain and big chain pharmacies. If there were price cutting or price wars between pharmacies, then it would disrupt pharmacists from their real professional work," he said.

AKHBAR : NEWS STRAIT TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 15

RUANGAN : NEWS/NATION

GOVT CLINICS, HOSPITALS

# GOVT TACKLING NURSE SHORTAGE

Ministry asking PSD to approve recruitment, says minister

TEH ATHIRA YUSOF  
SERDANG  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE Health Ministry is pulling out all the stops to resolve the shortage of nurses in government clinics and hospitals.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the ministry has sought the Public Ser-

vice Department's (PSD) approval to allow the employment of nurses, in spite of the moratorium placed on their appointment.

He said the ministry was working to address the shortage.

He agreed that Malaysia lacked nurses, given its ratio of one nurse per 300 patients, as opposed to the World Health Organisation's optimum number,

which is one nurse per 200 patients.

"We understand the issue. A moratorium is in place on the appointment of nurses but we are nevertheless applying for additional positions to be given for nurses."

"We hope that this will be approved within a reasonable period, when the economy improves," he said after attending the International Nurses Day celebration at Hall D, Malaysia Agro Exposition Park, here yesterday.

The event was launched by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk

Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Present were Health Ministry director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Health Ministry Nursing Division director Tumble Ngadiran @ Tomblow and Malaysian Nursing Association president Sharipah Asiah Syed Junid Aljunid.

On June 9 last year, Dr Dzulkefly said the human resources optimisation policy practised by the previous administration was to blame for the glut of medical graduates and nurses, who had yet to secure placements in government hospitals.

The policy, he said, meant there would be no additional new posts offered but on a trade-off or redeployment.

Dr Dzulkefly said that to tackle the issue of graduate nurses who had yet to receive placements in government hospitals, the ministry had reduced the number of nurse trainees from 2,274 in 2016 to 1,742 last year (a drop of 23 per cent).

*Page 1 pic: Nurses taking a pledge at the International Nurses Day celebration in Serdang yesterday.*

## DPM thanks nurses for help when she was a doctor

**SERDANG:** Reminiscing about her days as an ophthalmologist, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail thanked nurses for their assistance and guidance in her early days as a doctor.

She said doctors, especially younger medical officers, discharged their responsibilities more confidently with the assistance of nurses.

"Nurses gave me a lot of confidence... as a young doctor coming out from medical school, the support and guidance the nurses gave me were priceless. They knew better because they had the experience."

"Having the nurses around, I felt that I could carry on and do this, to become a doctor, which I had trained and studied for," she said.

Dr Wan Azizah said this during her speech to some 3,000 nurses at International Nurses Day at Malaysia Agro Exposition Park here.

The event, which was celebrated with the theme "Nurses: A Voice to Lead — Health for All", saw Boey Swee Kam and Emmalice Jaboh receive the Education and Service awards, respectively.

Boey, from Ipoh, served in gov-



*Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail meeting with nurses at the International Nurses Day in Serdang yesterday. With them is Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI*

ernment hospitals, specialising in midwifery, before becoming a nursing tutor at a maternity hospital in Kuala Lumpur.

She was active in the Central Malayan Trained Nurses League and was the Malaysian Nurses Association (MNA) general treasurer from 1986 to 1988.

Emmalice was dubbed the "pillar" during the MNA formation in 1978. She later aided in the opening of the MNA branch in Sarawak.

Among her many accomplishments was to initiate training for nurses in cardiac care and surgery in hospitals.

Present were Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, Health Ministry director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, Health Ministry Nursing Division nursing director Tumble Ngadiran @ Tomblow and Malaysian Nursing Association president Sharipah Asiah Syed Junid Aljunid.

**AKHBAR : THE STAR**  
**MUKA SURAT : 3**  
**RUANGAN : NATION**

## Govt mulling over providing on-demand healthcare services

By SIRA HABIBU  
 sira@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The government is mulling over providing on-demand healthcare services to decongest public hospitals and clinics, says Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

The Health director-general said among the services that could be offered under the "uberisation" of healthcare was collecting blood samples at patients' homes.

"Blood samples are usually taken about two weeks before the appointment to see the doctor."

"Instead of making two trips to the hospital, patients can opt to have their blood samples taken at home and only visit the doctor after the laboratory reports are ready," he said at the International Nurses Day celebration at Malaysian Agro Exposition Park yesterday.

Dr Noor Hisham said about 50 million people do blood tests annually and if only 10% request for samples to be collected at their homes, the nurses could collectively earn RM50mil.

He said nurses could earn extra income but the government had yet to decide on the rate.

"But if the patients are willing to

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pay, say, RM10 per trip, then this could be done."

"Already the people are willing to pay RM6 for courier service to have their medicines delivered at the doorstep."

"The demand is growing. There are more than 50 million prescriptions a year and the people find it more convenient to have the medicines delivered to their homes," he said.

Dr Noor Hisham also said for 60 years, nurses had been going to patients' homes to provide postnatal care and the government could expand the service to mobilise doctors to treat elderly and stroke patients at homes.

"Chemotherapy and palliative care could also be carried out at patients' homes."

"Even circumcisions could be done at community centres," he said, adding that patients' medical records would be stored on i-cloud and they would have access to them, including scanned images.



**Proud moment:** Dr Wan Azizah talking to award recipients Boey (second from left) and Emmalice at the International Nurses Day celebration in Serdang. With them are Health Minister Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (left) and Dr Noor Hisham (right).

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail who opened the event paid tribute to nurses, describing them as her right hand, especially during surgeries and consultations.

"I would not have been able to perform my job to the best of my ability without the assistance of the skilful nurses."

"The nurses made my life so much easier when I was serving as a houseman."

"Nurses often 'rescue' doctors from tight situations. That is why I came to honour the nurses," she said.

About 3,000 nurses from all over Malaysia except Sabah attended the event organised by the Malaysian

Nurses Association (MNA). Sabah Nurses Association is not an affiliate of MNA.

This year's Tokoh Jururawat recipients were Perak-born octogenarian Boey Swee Kam who was selected for her achievement in education, and Sarawakian Emmalice Jaboh who was honoured for her sterling service.