

# Doc called 'keling' lauded for her professionalism

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Malaysian Medical Association president says Dr Shalini Paramaswaran showed exemplary professionalism in the face of racism.

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PETALING JAYA: Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Ashok Zachariah Phillip has lauded the professionalism displayed by a doctor who despite being racially abused, put her abuser's needs first, The Star Online reported.

Commenting on the incident in which Dr Shalini Paramaswaran was verbally abused by an accident victim who did not want her to treat him because of her ethnicity, Ashok said that Shalini showed exemplary professionalism in the face of racism.

He said that she had done what was best in a difficult situation by respecting the patient's wishes, while at the same time making sure he received the necessary medical assistance instead of leaving him unattended with his injuries by the roadside.

Ashok explained that doctors required the consent of patients before treating them and that Shalini had displayed great humanity and understanding by keeping her emotions in check despite the racial slur hurled at her.

"When you are involved in an accident, patients can be in shock, especially with a fracture like that," Ashok said, explaining that in those circumstances, it was not unusual that some patients acted abnormally.

Ashok advised doctors who faced racism in the line of duty, to remain professional all the same and

put the welfare of their patients first.

On Sunday, FMT reported that Shalini had taken to Facebook to recount how an accident victim refused to let a 'keling' touch him, but later apologised, saying, "I didn't know you were a doctor. Doctor can touch."

The incident happened on December 29, after Shalini had witnessed the old pakcik (uncle) skid and fall from his motorbike when attempting a U-turn.

She related that despite rushing to his aid only to be told not to touch him, she remained at the scene of the accident and called for an ambulance as well as briefed the paramedics of his condition when they arrived minutes later.