

MMA urges action against bogus doctors in illegal clinics targeting migrants

By Ahmad Mukhsein Mukhtar
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MMA president, Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo, said enforcement should be strengthened strategically, particularly in areas with a large concentration of migrant workers, as vulnerable communities are often targeted. NSTP/RAIHANA MANSOR

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has urged authorities to step up enforcement against illegal clinics run by bogus doctors, warning such operations pose serious risks to patient safety.

Its president, Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo, said enforcement should be strengthened strategically, particularly in areas with a large concentration of migrant workers, as vulnerable communities are often targeted.

The call follows recent reports of illegal clinics in the capital where foreign nationals allegedly posed as doctors, providing medical advice and dispensing controlled medicines without proper qualifications or registration.

"The MMA calls on authorities to intensify surveillance and enforcement to swiftly detect and shut down illegal healthcare operations, noting that the recurrence of such clinics despite previous raids suggests the need for more robust and sustained action.

"It is particularly shocking that such activities are taking place in the capital city, raising serious concerns about patient safety and regulatory oversight," he said in a statement today.

Dr Thirunavukarasu warned such practices could lead to misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment, complications from unsafe procedures and exposure to counterfeit or improperly dispensed medication.

He said that medical practice in Malaysia is strictly regulated, and only doctors registered with the Malaysian Medical Council and holding a valid Annual Practising Certificate are permitted to practise.

"This is not about any particular group, but about protecting individuals who may be taken advantage of due to barriers such as cost,

language or lack of awareness of the healthcare system," he said.

He added that firm inter-agency collaboration, regular inspections and decisive penalties are necessary to deter such activities.

He also urged the public to remain vigilant and seek treatment only from registered practitioners and licensed healthcare facilities.

"Patients have the right to ask for a doctor's credentials and should report any suspicious or unlicensed services to the authorities," he said, adding that protecting patient safety must remain a priority.

Yesterday, it was reported that the Immigration Department raided nine illegal clinics in Jalan Tun Tan Siew Sin on Friday, some of which had resumed operations after being shuttered in previous enforcement actions.