Dr Dzulkefly: Sexual harassment claims by housemen will be judiciously investigated

- Wednesday, 1 Aug 2018

  5:21 PM MYT
-
- By **Natasha Joibi**

KOTA KINABALU: The Health Ministry assures that investigations are being carried out "judiciously" to verify the charges of sexual harassment and bullying of female housemen by the head of an orthopaedics department at a Klang Valley hospital.

Minister Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad advised the media not to "amplify" the issue and to give the ministry space to get to the bottom of the matter.

He added that it was in the best interest of the investigation for the ministry to withhold information pertaining to the suspect, so as to prevent a trial by media.

"I have instituted the investigation, and we want to conduct the probe judiciously.

"You must trust that we will do it in all confidentiality in order to safeguard the aggrieved victims who dared to come forward and share critical information with us.

"You must understand that if you want to get all those involved to come forward, you must give them the assurance that everything will be done right," he told reporters at a press conference in Hospital Queen Elizabeth here on Wednesday (Aug 1).

Dr Dzulkefly said it was pointless to point fingers and throw accusations at individuals, when top priority should be given to carrying out the investigation well.

When asked to confirm a report by an online portal, claiming that the Health Department had issued a gag order to stop medical officers in the hospital concerned from divulging information regarding the department head, he said: "Not that I know of."

According to the report, it was already the ministry's policy that medical officers cannot make a media statement, as they were not authorised to do so.

"Our focus is on the investigation, and we think we can do well without the media over-exposing (the issue)," Dr Dzulkefly said.

He stressed that the ministry did not intend to stifle the press, but was instead asking to be given some space to investigate the case.