

MMA calls for clear timeline, accountability for RM1bil EMR investment

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Malaysian Medical Association president Datuk Dr R. Thirunavukarasu, however, welcomed the allocation, describing it as an important boost towards modernising the public healthcare system and enabling better connected care. - NSTP/AIZUDDIN SAAD

KUALA LUMPUR: The government should set a clear implementation timeline, measurable milestones and accountability measures for the newly announced RM1 billion allocation for Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and connectivity across public healthcare facilities.

Malaysian Medical Association president Datuk Dr R. Thirunavukarasu, however,

welcomed the allocation, describing it as an important boost towards modernising the public healthcare system and enabling better connected care.

"The Health Ministry is not starting from zero, as over the last three years, digital clinics have increased four-fold.

"Through the One Person, One Record initiative, at least 15 million Malaysians already have health information, including prescription records, available through MySejahtera.

"With RM1 billion committed, there should also be a clear implementation timeline, measurable milestones, transparency on how the funds are utilised and accountability for outcomes," he told the New Straits Times.

Dr Arasu was commenting on a slew of initiatives announced by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in his National Day eve address.

He said these achievements reflected the work already being undertaken by teams driving the Health Ministry's digital health transformation, despite existing resource constraints.

Dr Arasu said the new allocation should build on this capability and accelerate what was already being delivered.

He said the investment must also address the hardware, connectivity and supporting infrastructure needed for the system to work reliably.

"Cybersecurity, maintenance, future upgrades and adequate recurrent funding must be planned from the beginning.

"Change management will be critical. Doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers who use these systems every day must be engaged and properly trained.

"Technology should improve workflow and patient care, not create additional administrative burden," he said.