NEW STRAITS TIMES

Using 'Dr' title without registration can mislead public, says MMA

By Zaf Seraj

December 29, 2025 @ 3:46pm



Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo has warned that the use of the "doctor" or "Dr" title by individuals who are not registered medical practitioners may mislead the public into believing they are licensed doctors— NSTP/RAIHANA MANSOR

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has warned that the use of the "doctor" or "Dr" title by individuals who are not registered medical practitioners may mislead the public into believing they are licensed doctors.

MMA president Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo said it is crucial that only properly registered and qualified individuals speak or act in a medical capacity, particularly on health-related matters shared on social media or other public platforms.

"When the title 'Dr' is used by an unregistered doctor in a medical or health-related setting, both physically and virtually, especially in giving public health communications, advisories, endorsements, or treatment, there is a real risk of the public being misled into believing that these individuals are legally registered," he said in a statement today.

Dr Thirunavukarasu said that medical graduates who are not registered with the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) may use the title "Dr" to indicate their academic qualifications, but

this does not entitle them to practise medicine or imply registration with the council.

He cited Section 33 of the Medical Act 1971, which prohibits anyone who is not registered or exempted under the Act from using names, titles, or descriptions that could mislead the public into believing they are qualified or authorised to practise medicine or surgery.

Dr Thirunavukarasu urged the public to verify a doctor's registration status on the MMC website and report anyone providing healthcare advice or services without proper registration and licensing.

Last week, the MMC clarified that medical graduates may use the title "doctor" academically, even if they are not registered as practitioners.

However, the title does not grant the right to act as a medical practitioner in Malaysia.

This advisory was issued after Youth and Sports Minister Dr Taufiq Johari used the title.

The MMC said that to be registered, medical graduates must pass the required examinations and complete housemanship at hospitals recognised in Malaysia.

Dr Taufiq was appointed to the ministerial position in last week's cabinet reshuffle.