

## **Health Ministry and WHO discuss collaborations and healthcare reform**

By New Straits Times - January 10, 2023 @ 9:43am

PUTRAJAYA: Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa said that the Health Ministry is committed to work together with the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the country's healthcare reform.

In a Facebook post uploaded today (Jan 10), she shared that she received a courtesy call from WHO representative and head of country office to Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, Dr Rabindra Abeyasinghe, yesterday.

"We discussed the extensive collaboration with WHO, and for it to continue its multilateral relationship in health care reform in Malaysia.

"Malaysia is participating in the upcoming 152nd WHO Executive Board (EB) Meeting, as the first vice-chair, from Jan 30 until Feb 7, in Geneva, Switzerland.

"Malaysia shall propose a draft resolution on Behavioral Science for Better Health which signifies the country's intent on being at the forefront of global health architecture," she said.

Zaliha said the discussion also touched on various health issues, including reducing diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and addressing the double burden of malnutrition and elevating nutritional status.

She pointed out that the Ministry is also concerned about global health and the management of NCDs through various community-based programmes. She also revealed that the Ministry is focusing on developing a Health White Paper, a collective statement on how the health system can become more sustainable and resilient through the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

Zaliha noted that both parties have agreed on the need to strengthen existing cooperation, particularly in digital health, healthcare reforms and financing and communicable disease management, where WHO can continue to provide technical assistance to boost in-country capacities as well as opportunities to highlight Malaysia's leadership in regional and global health issues.

"This is also aimed at raising awareness of the urgent actions needed to keep the population healthy while ensuring sustainable healthcare in the long run," she said.

Also present were director-general Tan Sri Dato Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, deputy director-general (public health) Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli, planning division director Dr Rozita Halina Tun Hussein, and other senior health ministry officers.