

## **Healthcare digitalisation, police mental health highlighted today**

By Nuradzimmah Daim, Mohamed Basyir - March 30, 2023 @ 6:17pm

KUALA LUMPUR: The digitalisation of the country's healthcare information system, while in the right direction, is moving at a snail's pace.

Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa told the Dewan Rakyat today a massive budget would be required for this transformation with old equipment and buildings; and costly cloud server service needed to be factored in.

To date, only 27.5 per cent of hospitals in Malaysia used the Teleprimary-Care (TPC) system, under the digitalisation initiative launched in 2005, which adopts "healthcare without boundaries" concept, where each patient has a unique identity, or TPC number.

TPC allows a single registration made from any location and is a client-based server application connected through fixed line and satellite, as well as medical record sharing.

The issue of mental health among policemen also received the attention of the lower house.

The tragedy of a policeman who shot his wife dead in their Kangar home on March 5 has highlighted the need for better mental health management for those holding high-risk and high-pressure jobs.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, during the question-and-answer session, said the government was closely monitoring the mental and physical health of police personnel who were allowed to carry firearms .

According to surveys, he said, mental health problems among policemen were due to stress, health and workplace environment.

On the economic front, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan said the country's tax model was unsustainable in keeping the national debt under control.

He said the government was taking steps to implement targeted subsidies, while planning to review the tax structure and introduce the Fiscal Responsibility Act later this year.

The trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (Aukus) was also raised during the session, amid news reports of Canberra buying nuclear-powered submarines to face a rising China.

In allaying public concern regarding this, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said the submarines would not carry nuclear weapons, in line with existing legal instruments including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), and Asean Declaration on Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN).

He said Aukus would also be further discussed during the Asean Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) scheduled to be held in July in Jakarta, Indonesia.