KEMENTERIAN SUMBER MANUSIA

“KERATAN AKHBAR KESUMA”

SABTU
7 SEPTEMBER 2024

Kartel Perkeso: Imej doktor bukan 'mata duitan' tercalar

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PETALING JAYA: Penglibatan doktor pakar dengan kartel pemalsuan tuntutan hilang upaya Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (Perkeso) menghakis kepercayaan rakyat kepada profesion kedoktoran dan sistem kesihatan negara.

Presiden Persatuan Pakar Perubatan Kesihatan Awam Malaysia (PPPKAM), Prof. Dr. Jamaluddin Ab Rahman berkata, kehilangan kepercayaan rakyat merupakan satu perkara yang amat membimbangkan kerana selama ini doktor dilihat 'bersih' dan bukan mata duitan.

Menurut beliau, pendedahan tersebut sekali gus menyukarkan Kementerian Kesihatan pengamal-pengamal perubatan dan pakar lain untuk pencegahan dalam isu kesihatan kerana terlalu banyak perkara 'sumbang' serta tidak mematuhi etika kedoktoran.

"Nanti kita terpaksa merayu dengan rakyat untuk mendengar pengamal perubatan kerana mereka sudah tidak percaya dan mempunyai syak wasangka dengan apa sahaja tindakan doktor. Ini semua berpunca banyak doktor yang terlampau berkiblatkan duit.

"Hanya kerana mahu menjadi kaya raya dengan cepat, jadi dengan mudah mereka menggadaikan etika mereka sebagai pengamal perubatan," katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*.

Terdahulu, media melaporkan, sebanyak lima doktor pakar tulang daripada 36 individu yang dipercayai terbabit dengan kartel pemalsuan tuntutan Perkeso yang berjumlah RM2.1 juta sejak 2017.

Kesemua mereka yang terlibat itu kini direman Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah (SPRM) bagi membantu siasatan.

Modus operandi yang digunakan kartel itu adalah dengan membuat tuntutan palsu melibatkan kecederaan pada bahagian tulang belakang dan ligamen anterior cruciate (ACL).

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Jamaluddin berkata, tindakan kartel tersebut akan menyebabkan kos perubatan menjadi semakin tinggi hingga menyaksikan rakyat kehilangan akses kepada perkhidmatan tersebut.

"Negara kita sekarang merupakan antara negara yang mempunyai perkhidmatan (perubatan) yang universal atau menyeluruh dengan bayaran yang kecil. Jadi apabila kos semakin tinggi maka kerajaan akan menjadi semakin tidak mampu untuk menampung.

"Jika situasi itu berlaku dengan kerajaan mungkin tidak berani nak mewujudkan skim pembiayaan kesihatan, di mana rakyat perlu kongsi tanggungjawab untuk membiayai perubatan dalam negara. Apa kerajaan boleh buat?

"Adakah kita mahu kerajaan mengorbankan atau mengurangkan kualiti ubat atau alat-alat perubatan?" soalnya.

Tambahnya, tindakan kartel itu secara tidak langsung menjejaskan sistem kesihatan negara dan pelbagai pihak lain.

Oleh kerana itu, beliau berkata, pendedahan mengenai kartel itu akan menyebabkan lebih banyak penguatkuasaan dilakukan bagi memastikan kegiatan kumpulan tersebut dapat dinoktahkan.

"Kita juga perlu mewujudkan mekanisme yang sesuai untuk memantau kegiatan-kegiatan tersebut," katanya.

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15 wakil uji prestasi TVET Malaysia di Perancis

Putrajaya: Malaysia akan meneroka kepelbagaian teknologi serta amalan baik sektor Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET) pada peringkat antarabangsa menerusi penyertaan dalam Pertandingan WorldSkills 2024 (WSC 2024) yang akan bermula pada 10 hingga 16 September ini di Lyon, Perancis.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, berkata WSC 2024 dapat berperanan sebagai wadah pertandingan pada peringkat antarabangsa bagi menilai prestasi dan mengiktiraf bakat berkemahiran dihasilkan melalui program TVET.

Pengerusi Majlis TVET Negara itu berkata, melalui WSC 2024, kontinjen negara berpeluang meneroka amalan baik sektor TVET, seterusnya diguna pakai dalam pelaksanaan program TVET.

"Ia sejajar hasrat kerajaan mengiktiraf TVET sebagai pemacu perubahan ekonomi negara dan pilihan utama kerjaya rakyat Malaysia," katanya menerusi kenyataan, semalam.

Pada WSC 2024, Malaysia diwakili 15 belia berkemahiran terdiri daripada pelajar Institusi Latihan Kemahiran Awam serta institusi pengajian tinggi di seluruh negara yang akan menyertai 14 daripada 62 bidang kemahiran dipertandingkan.

Ahmad Zahid menzahirkan penghargaan dan sokongan terhadap 15 anak muda yang akan menggalas tanggungjawab dalam misi melakar kecemerlangan sektor TVET Malaysia menerusi WSC 2024.

Kontinjen negara akan bertanding dalam 14 bidang termasuk bidang kemahiran berteknologi tinggi seperti Robot System Integration, IT Software Solution for Business, Web Technologies, Automobile Technology, Heavy Vehicle Technology dan Digital Construction.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan memberi sokongan komprehensif dalam memastikan kontinjen negara di WSC 2024 mempunyai momentum terbaik antaranya melalui penyediaan latihan intensif bersama pakar negara dan pihak industri.

"Turut dilaksanakan ialah penyertaan pertandingan persahabatan pada peringkat kebangsaan dan antarabangsa serta penganjuran program motivasi telah dilakukan bagi mengukuhkan aspek fizikal dan mental dalam kalangan peserta," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan dan seluruh rakyat Malaysia sentiasa konsisten memberi sokongan penuh dan mendoakan kejayaan wakil negara melakar kecemerlangan di pentas WSC Lyon 2024.

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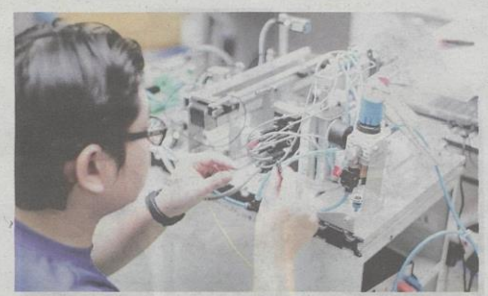
SUARA KONTEMPORARI **Kosmo!**

Habuan besar menanti peserta cemerlang TVET di WSC



SERAMAI 15 anak muda dalam bidang TVET akan mewakili negara di WSC ke-47 di Perancis. – GAMBAR HIASAN

PUTRAJAYA – Seramai 15 anak muda akan menggalas tanggungjawab dalam misi melakar kecemerlangan sektor Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET) Malaysia menerusi penyertaan di Worldskills Competition (WSC) kali ke-47 di Lyon, Perancis.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi berkata, beliau menyokong penyertaan anak muda terbabit pada acara yang berlangsung hari ini hingga 16 September.

"Kontinjen negara akan bertanding dalam 14 bidang kemahiran termasuk bidang berteknologi tinggi seperti Robot System Integration, IT Software Solution for Business, Web Technologies, Automobile Technology, Heavy Vehicle Technology dan Digital Construction.

"Sebagai Pengerusi Majlis TVET Negara, saya melihat WSC Lyon 2024 dapat berperanan sebagai wadah pertandingan di peringkat antarabangsa bagi menilai prestasi dan mengiktiraf bakat berkemahiran yang dihasilkan melalui program itu," katanya.

Menurut Ahmad Zahid, kontinjen negara berpeluang meneroka kepelbagaian teknologi serta amalan baik sektor TVET di peringkat antarabangsa.

Tambahnya, ia akan diadaptasi dalam pelaksanaan program TVET negara, sejajar dengan hasrat kerajaan mengiktiraf TVET sebagai pemacu perubahan ekonomi negara dan pilihan utama kerjaya rakyat Malaysia.

Sehubungan itu, kerajaan bersetuju memberi insentif wang tunai RM40,000 (pingat emas), RM20,000 (pingat perak), RM10,000 (pingat gangsa) dan RM4,000 (Medallion for Excellence) kepada para pemenang WSC Lyon.

"Peserta berjaya turut dianugerahkan pensijilan Diploma Lanjutan Kemahiran Malaysia," katanya.

Akhbar	The Star
Tarikh	7 September 2024
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Agents will do almost all the dirty work

GEORGE TOWN: Kamal (not his real name), 54, has been working for more than 30 years mainly doing maintenance work at a government agency.

Sometime at the end of last year, he suffered a hand injury while operating a machine and sought treatment at a public hospital in Bukit Mertajam.

"I fractured two of my fingers that day. While waiting to see the doctor, a man approached me and asked me how I got injured.

"He then offered to help me claim from Socso for my injuries. I did not have to do anything.

"After I saw the doctor, I just passed him my identification card and company tag.

"He did the rest for me, including filling in the forms and submitting the claim," Kamal said, adding that he received compensation for his injury a few months later.

> "They (the suspects) told their friends about how to make 'easy money' through this scam. Some even bought new cars, including a luxury MPV, with the ill-gotten gains."
>
> Source

Kamal was among 30 people who were hauled up by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission recently for allegedly being involved in a Social Security Organisation (Socso) claim scam.

It is reliably learnt that of the 30 suspects questioned, 15 workers had filed fake claims.

"Some of them did not even suffer any injury at all," said a source.

The source added that after successfully pocketing the claims, some of the suspects boasted to others about how easy it was to make money through the scam, and word spread quickly about its existence.

"They told their friends about how to make 'easy money' through this scam. Some even bought new cars, including a luxury MPV, with the ill-gotten gains," the source said.

According to another source, the modus operandi is similar for all participants – the agents would file the claims on the suspects' behalf with the help of doctors from government hospitals or a private hospital.

"The agents would promise them they can claim from Socso for their injuries. Even for a minor fracture, the agents would tell the patients it's worth claiming for it.

"The victims were later introduced to doctors who would issue the medical reports to back their claims.

"In most cases with non-existent injuries, the money would be divided among the cartel members, including the medical practitioners," said the source.

More arrests to come in fake claims probe

MACC eyes other govt agencies as it widens graft investigation

By R. SEKARAN
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BUTTERWORTH: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) swoop on doctors, hospital staff and agents for alleged malpractices is just the tip of the iceberg, with investigations now likely to be expanded to more government agencies, sources say.

"There will be more arrests. We can't comment more as investigations are ongoing," said a source, adding that graft busters are hunting for the mastermind.

On Wednesday and Thursday, five doctors and 31 other individuals, including runners, agents and Penang Port employees, were remanded.

They are being investigated under Section 18 of the MACC Act 2009 for allegedly submitting false claims.

Three doctors were from Hospital Seberang Jaya, one from Hospital Bukit Mertajam, and one from a private hospital in Butterworth.

The offence carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in jail and a fine of RM10,000 or five times the value of the false claims, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

One of the companies now in the crosshairs of the MACC is Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB), where at least 15 workers have allegedly been making fraudulent claims since 2019.

PPSB chief executive officer Datuk Sasedharan Vasudevan said the company initiated an internal investigation four weeks ago after it was alerted by the Social Security Organisation (Socso).

"We were aware of the claims but were not notified of their arrests. We leave it to the MACC to conduct the investigation.

"The entire process of the Socso claims was done individually by the workers. As such, we were not aware of the fraudulent claims," said Sasedharan.

It is believed that the 15 port workers had been given show-cause letters after their arrests by the MACC.

According to a hospital employee who declined to be named, agents would usually camp at the hospital lobby to wait for accident victims and offer to do their claims.

"The agents will get the lion's share of the amount as they facilitated the entire process, with the doctors, patients, runners and others sharing the rest of the money," said the source.

This modus operandi is said to have been going on since 2017, with each injury claim application amounting to between RM50,000 and RM100,000.

Another source said Socso officials became suspicious when they noticed an unusually high number of similar claims coming from one company.

Meanwhile, Seberang Jaya assemblyman Izhar Shah Arif Shah said his service centre received information about the difficulties faced by Socso applicants in obtaining their claims.

"It's regrettable that such situations have occurred and it has affected claimants who genuinely need help," he said.

Izhar Shah urged the state health department to replace the suspects from Hospital Seberang Jaya and Hospital Bukit Mertajam who were detained.

Penang senator Dr RA Lingeshwaran had reportedly brought up this issue at the Dewan Negara on July 28, when he called on the government, particularly the Human Resources Ministry, to explain the alleged suspension of senior doctors handling Socso disability claims purportedly linked to a cartel in the state.

Dr Lingeshwaran, who was the former director of Hospital Sungai Bakap, said the cartel was believed to be lobbying for the suspended doctors to return to work at the same hospital.

He also claimed that there were 683 fraudulent Socso withdrawals from 2018 to 2022 involving about RM43mil, of which 16 involved a certain doctor whose services were terminated after the activities were exposed.

On alert: Sasedharan says PPSB initiated an internal investigation four weeks ago after it was alerted by Socso that at least 15 of its workers have allegedly been making fraudulent claims since 2019. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

Flashback: An exclusive report published by 'The Star' on April 4 last year on alleged Socso claims.