

Intake of medical students to be doubled, says Najib

PETALING JAYA, Sat. - All the groundwork to double the country's annual intake of medical students from 500 to 1,000 to meet future needs, is ready, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said the government had expanded its existing three medical colleges at Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Medical faculties had also been set up within the International Islamic University, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Universiti Sabah Malaysia, all of which would commence operation between this year and end of this decade, he said after the International Medical College's inaugural convocation at the Petaling Jaya Civic Centre, here.

The government had also approved the setting up of three private medical colleges, including the Asean Medical School, to complement the supply of local doctors.

Najib said there were now 9,504 registered doctors in the country with a ratio of a doctor to every 2,115 populace.

Malaysia needs 33,500 doctors by the year 2020 if it wants to reduce the ratio to 1:961.

Sixty-seven students received their Advanced Diploma in Medical Sciences from International Medical College (IMC) chairman Datuk Dr Kamal Sahih.

They have completed the 30-

month pre-clinical training at the college, the country's first private medical school, and will be transferred to 20 overseas medical schools in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States to complete their clinical training. - Bernama

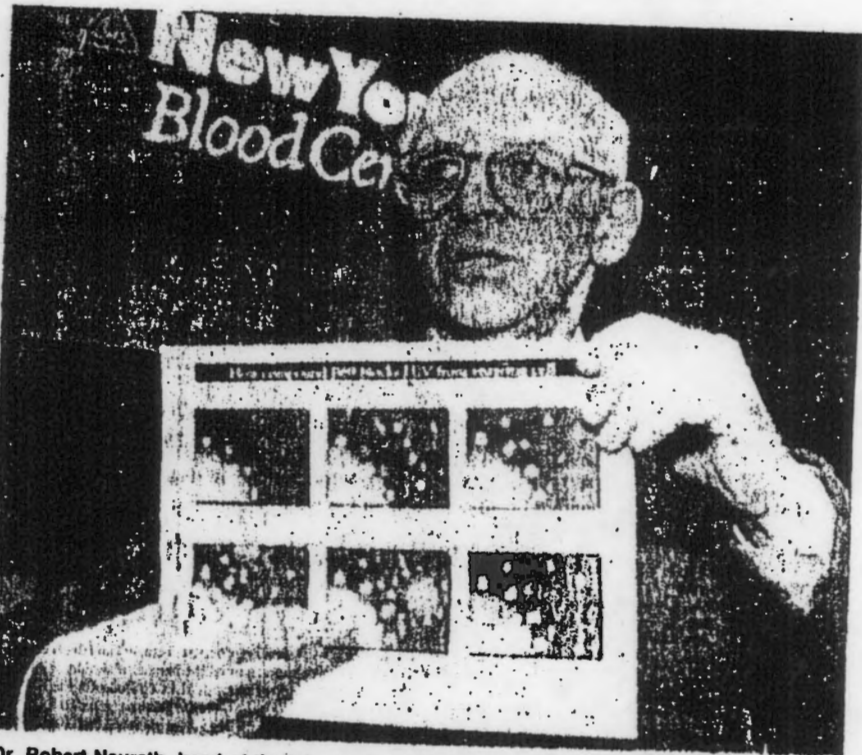
Fomca calls for greater use of electronic

SEREMBAN, Sat. - The Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (Fomca) today called on the government to ensure wider use of electronic weighing machines to prevent cheating by irresponsible traders.

Fomca assistant secretary Ismail Abdul Aziz said today electronic weighing machines were more accurate than the conventional weighing machines currently in use.

"The use of electronic weighing machines will also remove public doubts," he told Bernama, here.

He claimed that despite checks by the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry's enforcement division irresponsible traders could still tamper with the readings.



Dr. Robert Neurath, head of the laboratory of Biomedical Virology at New York Blood Center's Kimball Research Institute, holds up a chart recently, showing how a milk-based compound called "B69" blocks the HIV virus from entering cells. The compound, modified from whey, the dairy product best known from the tale of Little Miss Muffet, might provide a new way to keep AIDS from infecting people during sex.