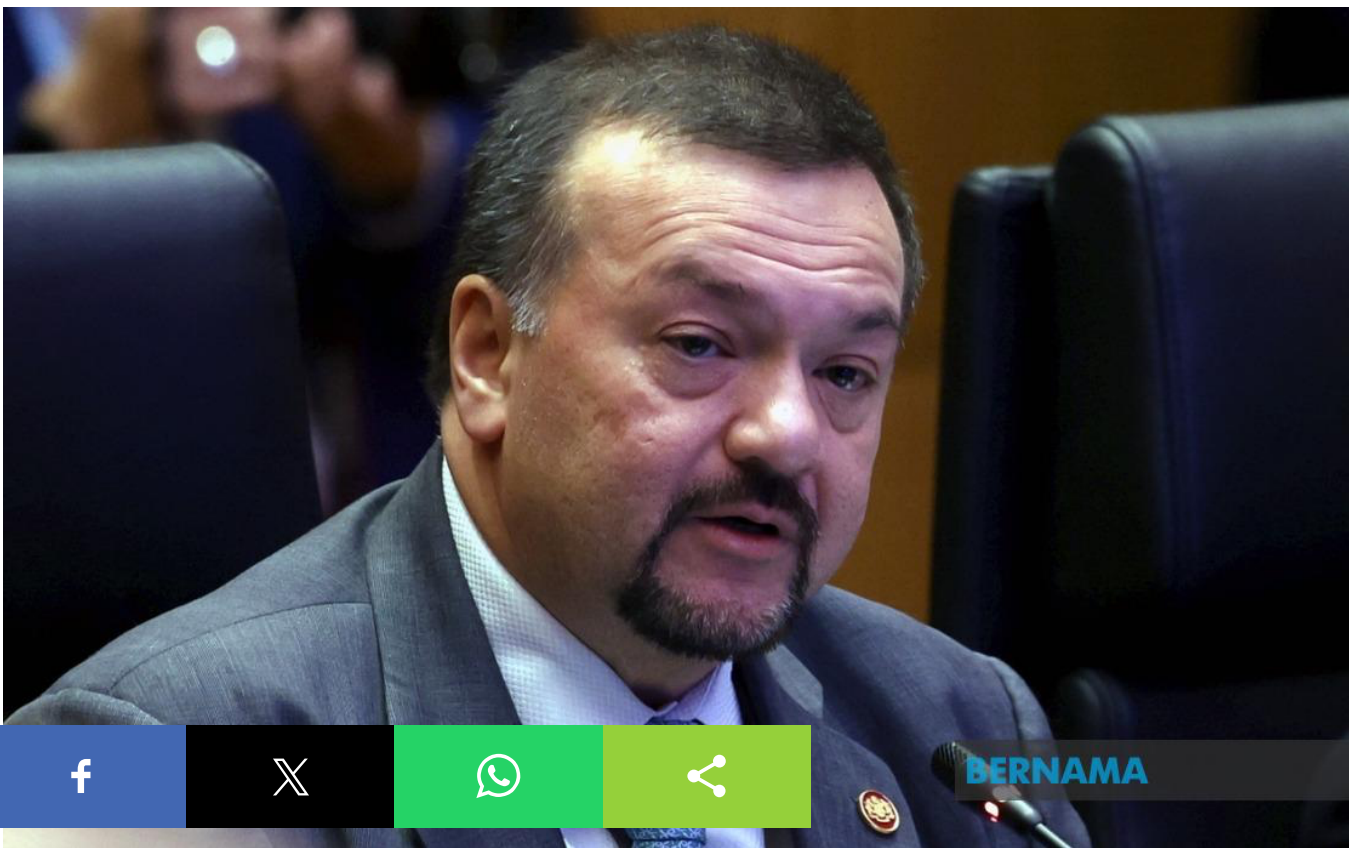


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BNM To Strengthen Rules On Medical Insurance As Base MHIT Plan Rolls Out

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**BERNAMA**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) will strengthen regulatory requirements for all medical and health insurance/takaful (MHIT) products following the introduction of a standardised base MHIT plan, aimed at improving consumer protection and ensuring long-term premium sustainability, said Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

He said the enhanced regulatory framework would align market offerings with

the principles of the base MHIT plan, reinforcing affordability and transparency across the private healthcare financing ecosystem.

Amir Hamzah said the base MHIT plan, which will be offered on a voluntary basis, is scheduled for pilot implementation in the second half of 2026, with a full rollout targeted for early 2027 to coincide with the expiry of BNM's interim measures on medical insurance repricing.

"Crucially, policyholders facing repricing will have the option to switch seamlessly to this base plan with their current insurer - without new medical underwriting.

"This is just the beginning. We will need to be dynamic and adaptable in bringing the base MHIT plan to maturity over the years, remaining realistic about what can be achieved on day one," he said during a joint-press conference with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad here today.

Also present were BNM Governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour and Treasury secretary-general Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican.

On fiscal measures, Amir Hamzah said the government is expanding its support for community healthcare initiatives through tax incentives announced under Budget 2026.

He said the existing tax exemption framework for non-profit hospitals introduced in 2024 has already benefitted four institutions, and will now be widened to allow private hospitals to establish tax-exempt welfare funds for underprivileged patients, subject to guidelines.

"This encourages providers to scale up impactful work - such as IHH's 'Life Renewed' programme, which has sponsored critical surgeries for over 2,000 patients.

"We are finalising the operational details with the Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia by the first quarter of 2026, and I look forward to all the major hospitals taking up this mechanism so that we do our part to serve the underprivileged," he added.