

Headline	NGO Suspects in police lockups have a right to medical treatment		
MediaTitle	The Star (Metro North)		
Date	08 Sep 2012	Color	Black/white
Section	News	Circulation	293,375
Page No	17	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	81 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 919
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 2,757



NGO: Suspects in police lockups have a right to medical treatment

A NON-GOVERNMENTAL organisation which provides free medical treatment to the poor is calling on the Government to have in-house doctors stationed at lockups at police stations in Penang.

Dharma Sivasanta Free Clinic coordinator P. Murugiah said this was to ensure that diseases like tuberculosis, HIV and leprosy would not spread to others.

"Health screening is necessary for the suspects.

"If they have any diseases, it will put not only other suspects in the lockups at risk but

also the police personnel at the stations.

"Even though the suspects may be criminals, they have a right to medical treatment and medication," he said.

Murugiah appealed to the Home Ministry and Health Ministry to look into the matter.

"I have received feedback from doctors at our free clinic that some patients caught TB from other suspects in the lockups.

"Proper protection is crucial to prevent the spread of such transmittable diseases, like using disposable cups and separating the suspects," he said.