

> PHARMACISTS

You need a degree

THE advertorial "INTI route to pharmacy diploma" (NST, June 11) quoted the Health Ministry as saying that more healthcare professionals are needed in the country and proceeded to explain that "hence, the nation still needs pharmacists. In helping to fill the divide, INTI College is now offering a diploma in pharmacy".

I would like to clarify that a pharmacist has a degree in pharmacy and not a diploma. A diploma in pharmacy will produce a pharmacy assistant and not a pharmacist.

To be registered as a pharmacist in Malaysia, a person must hold a degree recognised

by the Pharmacy Board of Malaysia. This degree is normally the Bachelor of Pharmacy or Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy).

A list of the recognised qualifications can be obtained from our website www.pharmacy.gov.my.

Currently, there are several private and public institutions in Malaysia offering recognised pharmacy degrees but INTI College is not one of them.

DATUK CHE MOHD ZIN CHE AWANG

**Director, Pharmaceutical Services Division
Ministry of Health**