

18/02/1997

Dr M to open Seremban dialysis centre

SEREMBAN, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the RM6 million haemodialysis centre in Jalan Rasah on Feb 24.

The idea to build the haemodialysis centre, touted the biggest in Asia, was mooted by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad in an effort to help poor kidney patients.

The four-storey building is located close to the Seremban Hospital.

State Executive Councillor Datuk Dr Yeow Chai Thiam, who is also chairman of the centre, said patients seeking treatment at private clinics had to pay between RM120 and RM150 per visit, which was a hefty sum for many.

"At this centre, we will be charging only RM70 per visit," he told reporters during a visit by Mohamad Isa to the centre today.

Dr Yeow said if there were still those who genuinely could not afford the RM70, the centre was prepared to subsidise the fee for them.

Meanwhile, Mohamad Isa said for a start 15 haemodialysis machines costing about RM1 million would be installed at the centre and manned by a doctor and four nurses.

"In time to come we hope to upgrade the centre to its maximum capacity of 100 machines," he said.

"We also have plans to open up a centre in each of the seven districts in the State to help patients who were unable to travel to Seremban."

To mark the official opening, a grand dinner has been planned at the Negri Sembilan padang.

The organising committee has sold 20,200 tickets and hopes to raise RM10 million.

"Those who donate to this good cause will get income tax exemption," said Dr Yeow, adding that about RM35,000 a month was needed to manage the centre.

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