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Hospital Pantai to have telemedicine facilities

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HOSPITAL Pantai Bhd expects to equip its existing medical centres in Klang, Cheras, Bangsar, Penang and Ipoh with telemedicine facilities by year-end, said executive chairman and chief executive officer Mokhzani Mahathir.

He explained that the move would enable medical cases to be referred to consultants in other Pantai Medical Centres as well as in countries such as Germany, France and the United States through the "wires".

The RM10 million telemedicine facilities would mainly focus in areas pertaining to oncology, radiology, pathology and cardiology.

The telemedicine facilities will be housed at a temporary site pending completion of the company's new 350-bed medical centre in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur.

He added that the group does not foresee any difficulties in implementing the telemedicine facilities as the Health Ministry was in the midst of finalising the laws of telemedicine.

Mokhzani was speaking at a Press conference after Hospital Pantai's annual meeting in Bukit Kiara yesterday.

Asked the rationale for disposing its stake in Parkway Holdings Limited, he said the group decided to strengthen its position in Malaysia before embarking into the region.

The group acquired a stake in Parkway Holdings last year prior to Mokhzani joining its board of directors.

On the group's future plans, he said that Hospital Pantai intends to establish eight new diagnostic centres throughout Peninsular Malaysia by end of this year to complement its existing medical centres.

"We decided to set up diagnostic centres with a general practitioner and a technician since we do not have the manpower or resources yet to set up hospitals throughout Malaysia, especially in the rural areas," he said.

He added that the cost of setting up a small diagnostic centre was RM1 million to RM1.5 million each while the larger centres would cost RM5 million.

The group expects to establish five small centres and three large ones by year end.

"These centres will also be linked to our main medical centres which would enable major cases to be referred to consultants' or specialists' in the medical centres," Mokhzani added.

Apart from the diagnostic centres, Hospital Pantai expects to finalise plans to set up three other new medical centres in Kuala Lumpur (Bangsar), Johor and Selangor.

Mokhzani said the Bangsar Medical Centre would be the group's centre of excellence.

"It would be built on a 2ha land adjacent to the existing medical centre in Jalan Pantai," he said, adding the construction of the centre was RM85 million.

On the medical centre in Johor, he said it would be constructed on a 6ha land.

"Negotiations regarding the new diagnostic and medical centres will be finalised by end of August," Mokhzani said.

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