

12/12/1998

## Hospital Pantai set to pioneer ambulatory healthcare

HOSPITAL Pantai Bhd is set to pioneer ambulatory healthcare in Malaysia and increase their services to cater for the growing need of private health care in the Klang Valley.

The hospital will set up a multi-disciplinary care centre offering wide range of medical services and orthopaedic to day-care surgery, which will be carried out by its subsidiary Kuala Lumpur Medical Centre (Asia Pacific) Sdn Bhd, says its chairman Mokhzani Mahathir in the company's latest annual report.

He adds that the construction of the new eight-storey hospital block adjacent to the present Pantai Medical Centre Bangsar, when completed by the year 2000, will cater for in-patients while the present block focuses on day-care treatment.

In line with the group's aspiration towards building itself as one of the country's largest integrated medical service providers, the group underwent an internal restructuring exercise to streamline its investments and business activities into three core business sectors, namely hospital operations division, healthcare support division and other services.

This new corporate structure is expected to result in a more efficient mobilisation of management resources and monitoring of business performance.

For the 17 months ended June 30 1998, the group posted a pre-tax profit of RM250.90 million while operating profits amounted to RM252.77 million.

Turnover recorded was RM162.10 million while profit after tax and minority interest rose to RM247.42 million from RM6.99 million recorded the previous 12 months, ended January 31 1997.

At company level, pre-tax profit registered was RM3.29 million on the back of RM85.78 million in turnover. Profit after tax and minority interest meanwhile was RM2.03 million.

Group's earnings per share for the 17 months ended June 30 1998, was RM3.88.

A first and final dividend of 5 per cent less 28 per cent income tax has been recommended.

(END)