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Teaching hospital of its own for UKM

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UNIVERSITI Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) now owns its own teaching hospital called the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM) after 26 years of sharing facilities with the General Hospital in Kuala Lumpur to train some 3,000 general practitioners and 600 specialists in all fields.

The RM400 million hospital, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, commenced operations on July 1 1997 with the opening of specialist clinics.

On September of the same year, it began offering in-patient and accident and emergency Services to meet the needs of the public.

From then onwards, HUKM progressed steadily to become a fully integrated teaching and services hospital.

UKM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Anuar Ali, in his speech at the opening ceremony, said UKM takes in 180 medical students a year.

It has so far produced more than 2,500 general doctors.

"Now, UKM has an expert programme in all clinical services and family medicine.

"We have so far produced 703 specialist doctors in various fields," he added.

As at the end of 1997, HUKM offers 100 specialist consultancy clinics, 355 beds for in-patients, six intensive care beds, six beds for coronary care, 12 beds for intensive neo-natal treatment and seven operating theatres.

The specialist clinics that were set up now offer a comprehensive range of specialist and sub-specialist services. Day treatment centres are also operational, offering services in haemodialysis, oncology, haematology, psychiatry and endoscopy.

Since the start of specialist clinics services in July last year, 44,050 patients have received treatment, averaging 400 patients daily.

Since October, ward services were been made available for 2,561 patients.

To meet the rapidly increasing demand for medical services, the hospital management is planning to expand ward facilities to a capacity of 600 beds by September this year.

Howevr, revenue obtained from medical fees is still small. Between July and December last year, HUKM made RM840,361, which is approximately 2.5 per cent of the operating expenditure.

HUKM attributed the low level of recouping expenditure for services to the fee structure governed by the Fee Act (Fee Ordinance Medical) 1982.

However, the hospital expects revenue to improve further when HUKM adopts a fee structure similar to that of University Malaya's University Hospital.

According to the hospital's annual report, the Public Services Department has approved 987 posts within the management and professional categories and another 938 posts in the support services category for the hospital.

The total number of posts for HUKM does not include existing posts in UKM's medical faculty.

As at December 31 1997, 39 per cent of the approved posts in the management and professional categories and 83.6 per cent of posts in the Support Services Category had been filled.

HUKM, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health Malaysia, has also

arranged for 100 trained nurses and 21 officers in the professional and para-medical categories to be loaned to the hospital.

Another 116 nurses have been recruited from India, Philippines and Vietnam on a contractual basis.

The hospital also maintains links and enjoys close cooperation with other renowned hospitals.

The National University Hospital of Singapore has supported the "Medical Assisted Conception" Service at HUKM while the Singapore General Hospital provides cooperation for training nurses and para-medical staff involved in managing the treatment of burns.

HUKM specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology, neurosurgery and endocrinology also maintain close links with their counterparts in other countries including the US and Australia.

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