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Hospital

WORLD'S FIRST ELECTRONIC HOSPITAL OPENS APRIL

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- The RM530-million Selayang Hospital here, which will be the world's first to apply the Total Hospital Information System (THIS), is due to open for public use in April next year, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meing said today.

"This makes it the first integrated paperless and filmless (hospital) in the world," he told reporters after visiting the hospital.

Chua said the THIS system integrates not only the hospital's management, financial and human resources but also all clinical aspects.

The RM50-million system captured the essence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision for information technology and its development in Malaysia, he said.

The people-friendly hospital was built on a 15.8-hectare site by Radiacare (M) Sdn Bhd on a turnkey basis under the Seventh Malaysia Plan to ease congestion at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

It has 960 beds, five intensive care wards and 22 operation theatres, including two at the Emergency Department.

Work on the hospital started in 1995 and it is expected to be handed over to the ministry at the end of the year for testing, certification and simulated operations pending full commissioning.

Chua said for a start the hospital would only operate 50 per cent of its bed-capacity requiring a complement of 1,800 personnel including specialist doctors, paramedics and support staff.

It would require a total workforce of 2,300 once fully-operational.

He said the specialists, doctors, paramedics and support personnel have undergone courses at the Vision Centre in Kampung Baharu since February last year to man the world's most sophisticated system at the Selayang Hospital.

"A 100 per cent electronic hospital has never been done anywhere else in the world. We have to make sure that this hospital, that will be the flagship in term of technology and IT and technology in the new philosophy of healthcare, must be a success," he said.

Chua has directed the ministry's Development Division to ensure smooth operation of the system when it commences operation in April.

Chua said the new hospital also has an electronic Picture Archiving Communication System or PACS to store patients' records electronically, including digital imaging.

The hospital, providing 14 secondary-care disciplines, would be also the main centre for six tertiary-care disciplines, including gastroenterology and urology, which will be moved from the Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

He said the Selayang Hospital would be the national referral centre and the regional centre for the six sub-specialties.

"So we expect to see in future that we will be able to get patients coming from overseas to receive treatment because this will be the centre of excellence for the six disciplines," he said.

The construction of the Sungai Buloh Hospital, designated to be the second hospital to use the paperless and filmless concept, had to be deferred due to the current economic slowdown, he said

On fees, Chua said the Selayang Hospital would charge the same rates as other government hospitals.

Its public facilities include comfortable waiting and visitors' rooms

for families of patients from outstation, he said.

Chua said some of the hospital's equipment had to be imported although they were available locally because it was a turnkey project.

-- BERNAMA

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