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Healthcare for all

1Malaysia mobile clinic to reach out to those in the interior

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IPOH: The newly launched 1 Malaysia mobile clinic is aimed at serving Malaysians who do not have easy access to healthcare facilities.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said at least 25% of Malaysians did not receive basic healthcare and medical facilities.

"The best way to reach out to those in remote areas is through mobile clinics," he said when launching the country's first 1 Malaysia mobile clinic at the Pos Raya orang asli village about 25km from here yesterday. The mobile clinic, complete with examination rooms and facilities to carry out minor surgeries, was set up at a cost of RM1mil.

He said the first mobile clinic would start making its rounds in the remote areas of south Perak and Hulu Selangor.

"Another three mobile clinics will make its debut in Pahang, Selangor and Johor, respectively, from April 1. If successful, we will have more mobile clinics throughout the country," he said, adding that about 75% of Malaysians live within a 5km radius of hospitals and health clinics.

Sponsored by 1Malaysia Development Bhd and run by the Health Ministry, each mobile clinic is headed by a medical officer and operates from Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm.

"Health is something we often take for granted. Only when we are stricken with ill-

ness, like when I was down with chicken pox recently, do we realise that health is a gift from God," said Najib.

Speaking to reporters later, Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said treatment at the mobile clinics would be provided free of charge.

"One of the main tasks is to treat those who are sick before their condition gets worse. It costs the Government a lot of money to treat these patients after their condition deteriorates," he said, adding that each mobile clinic would have six personnel.

During yesterday's event, Najib also announced a RM5mil allocation to provide power supply and to build a concrete bridge in Kampung Pos Raya.