

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	9 January 2016

PM: Act promptly on faulty air-cond at Pahang hospital

NST- 9/1/2016

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has called on the Health Ministry to act speedily on the air-conditioning malfunction at Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan's (HTAA) intensive care unit (ICU) in Kuantan.

"The Health Ministry, (minister) Datuk Seri Dr S Subramaniam, (director-general) Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, please take immediate action and speed up repair works, as well as (come up with) temporary measures to deal with this matter," he said on his Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Najib was responding to a report by an English daily regarding the ordeal patients at HTAA's ICU unit had to endure due to the malfunction of the hospital's centralised air-conditioning system.

According to the report, hospital staff had to open windows to allow fresh air in, but mosquitoes and flies that carry infections were another issue as repair works would reportedly take 18 months.

In an immediate response, Dr Noor Hisham said plans to replace the current air-conditioning system at HTAA's main block was being carried out.

He urged all relevant parties, particularly the Public Works Department and the Health Ministry's Development Department to consider this an emergency situation due to



Repair works on the malfunctioning air-conditioning system at **Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan**, Kuantan, will reportedly take **18 months to complete**.

its consequences and urgency.

"I was told a tender advertisement was published on Nov 9 last year, while replacement work was expected to commence in March and will take 18 months to complete," Dr Noor Hisham said in a statement on his Facebook page yesterday.

"Due to the malfunctioning of the centralised air-conditioning system at HTAA's main block, understandably many patients and staff feel uncomfortable, and the quality of clinical services has been affected."

Temporary measures had been taken since last year, Dr Noor

Hisham said, involving the installation of five split air-conditioning units and two split air-conditioning units at the Special Care Nursery and Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), respectively.

Aside from that, two portable air-conditioning units were put in place

at the ICU.

Dr Noor Hisham said the hospital has proposed adding five more split air-conditioning units in ICU and two split air-conditioning units with air curtain for PICU.

"The installation will be completed by this weekend," he said.