

Third-class ward charge in govt hospitals reduced by half from May 1
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PUTRAJAYA: The third-class ward charge at government hospitals will be reduced by 50% from May 1, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced Thursday.

He said the discount was only applicable for those aged 60 and above.

"With the reduction, the maximum charge at the third-class ward will be RM250 per admission," he said when launching a maternity centre for low-risk cases at Precinct 8 here Thursday.

Najib said beginning the same date, those aged 60 and above would also be exempted from the RM5 registration fee for seeking treatment at government hospitals and clinics' outpatient specialist department.

He said the incentives were in addition to the exemption of the RM1 registration fee for outpatient treatment at all government hospitals and clinics, including the 1Malaysia clinics, from Jan 1.

On the maternity centre, the first in the country, Najib said it was one of the best examples of the blue ocean strategy.

"This is what the Government can provide the people with when a ministry does not work in its own silo.

"We are able to achieve the target in this case, the centre, with a much lower cost and in a shortest possible time," he said.

Najib said the building for the centre was provided by the Federal Territory Islamic Religious Council at a cost of RM12mil while the Health Ministry provided the manpower and part of the equipment.

He said the centre was completed and ready for use within five months from the date the Government decided on it.

"If we work in a silo, I think it will take at least two years for its completion," he said.

Najib added that the charge at the centre had been set at RM3 per admission.

The fully air-conditioned centre has six labour rooms and 24 beds. It is specially for low-risk patients.

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