

By : DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABD RAZAK
Venue:
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Title: LAUNCHING OF THE KNOWLEDGE ON RETINAL IMAGE
SCREENING (K. R. I. S.) STUDY

YBhg Gen.Datuk Dr.Mohan, Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Corps

YBhg. Datuk Subramaniam, Advisor to the KRIS Study

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum, and Salam Sejahtera.

1. Firstly, allow me to express my appreciation at having been invited to officially launch this study, the Knowledge on Retinal Image Screening study or better known as KRIS. I am pleased that even though it took some time, all the hurdles have finally been overcome and the study will finally commence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. I am especially pleased that this study, which is aimed at early detection and management of retinal eye disease (Retinopathy) will be conducted involving armed forces personnel. Indeed, good and healthy eyes and sight are especially critical to members on the armed forces, particularly those on active duty, playing crucial roles in the protection and defence of our nation.

3. In the course of this study, not only will the armed forces personnel involved be thoroughly screened for retinal eye disease but we will also be able to obtain information and data that would enable the prescription of appropriate treatment and care for all of them.

4. In the long run, the availability of the system used in this study as well as the data gathered in the study, will lead to tangible benefits for the armed forces, especially in the reduction of costs and the prevention of the loss of manpower due to visual disabilities.

5. I have been informed that the K.R.I.S. study targets to screen 10,000 people, for early detection of retinal problems. This makes it perhaps the largest such research in the world. The information obtained from this study would be invaluable in combating retinal eye disease. And the findings of the study would be essential in determining effective treatments and preventive measures.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the medical corps for its role in making this study a reality. The medical corps has performed remarkably well as an integral limb of the armed forces, and today, it charts another milestone of success with the launching of this study. I am extremely pleased to see this dynamism and pro-activeness of the corps in going beyond its traditional role. I hope there will be more such projects in the future especially those that would benefit the armed forces directly, especially in the area of personnel health management.

7. I am also happy to note the extensive use of information technology in the execution of this study. This is a wonderful example of the convergence of the various disciplines for the common benefit of all. I am certain that the development of a generic database using Bio-Informatics technology, as in the case here, could also be useful in other similar studies. It could also integrate with the Hospital Information System which is being put into place in our Military Hospitals.

8. Ultimately, the use of sophisticated technology in this study not only affirms Malaysia's move to embrace technology in all aspects of living, it also shows our ability to harness the best that technology has to offer and then apply it for the well-being of mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Before I conclude, let me take this opportunity to also congratulate Q Medic Diagnostics Sdn. Bhd., Multi-Media Glory Sdn. Bhd., and all other parties involved in making this project a success. I hope the cooperation seen here could be continued and extended into other future projects that would benefit the people and the nation.

10. Finally I wish to extend my best wishes to all those involved in the study and I would like to wish you every success. On that note, it is with great pleasure that I hereby officially launch the Knowledge on Retinal Image Screening (KRIS) Study.

Thank you.