

TEXT SPEECH

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

DATUK PATINGGI TAN SRI (DR) ABANG

HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN ZOHARI BIN TUN

DATUK ABANG HAJI OPENG

PREMIER OF SARAWAK

NORMAH MEDICAL SPECIALIST CENTRE'S

35TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

SUNDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER 2023

VENUE: HOTEL PULLMAN KUCHING

TIME: 8.00 PM

**Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi
wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera, Good
Evening and Salam Sarawak Maju
Makmur,**

1. This evening, we gather here to celebrate an extraordinary journey that began 35 years ago. The 35th anniversary of Normah Medical Specialist Centre is not merely a commemoration of the passage of time, but a celebration of transformation, dedication, and excellence in healthcare. From its humble beginnings as a 130-bed purpose-built private Medical Specialist Centre in 1988, Normah has evolved to become a beacon of advanced medical care

and utmost commitment to the well-being of its patients.

2. In its early days, Normah was more than a place of medical care. It was a vision, a mission to provide not only specialised medical attention but also to deliver high-quality, safe services that positively impacted patient outcomes. Throughout these three and a half decades, Normah has redefined the landscape of healthcare in Sarawak and beyond.

3. One of the crowning achievements of Normah's journey was becoming the pioneer in cardiac services, including

complex cardiac surgeries. When the need arose, Normah stepped up, becoming a lifeline for those in need. This centre therefore played an instrumental role in supporting the Sarawak Heart Foundation's noble mission of saving lives.

MILESTONES

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. Normah's journey started with a significant milestone - the establishment of the first private hospital in Sarawak on 11th August 1988. From there, the centre's achievements have been nothing short of remarkable.

5. On the 24th of December 1994, Normah made history when an open-heart surgery was successfully executed at its Cardiac Centre, which was set up in September that same year. It was an unprecedented achievement not just in Sarawak but Borneo as well.

6. Since its inception, Normah Medical Specialist Centre has amassed a series of accolades, a testament to its commitment to excellence. Notably, the Centre earned the coveted full 3-year Accreditation Status award from the Malaysian Society in Quality Health (MSQH) on the 10th of March 2005, and again in 2008, 2011,

2013, and 2016. The centre also earned accreditation by the prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI) on 15th January 2011, and subsequently in 2014, 2017, and 2021.

7. On the 7th of March, 2006, Normah Medical Specialist Centre once again carved its name in the annals of achievement, becoming the first private hospital in Borneo to introduce the cutting-edge 64 Multi-Slices CT Scan machine, which enabled the centre to provide greater diagnostic capabilities.

8. Last year, Normah introduced three state-of-the-art medical technologies and system integrations, namely the *Azurion 3 High-tech Cardiovascular Laboratory*, the *256-Slice Multi Detector Revolution Frontier 2.0 Computed Tomography (MSCT) Scanner* and the *1.5 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Signa Explorer*, providing the centre with world class diagnostic capabilities.

9. Recently, the centre established itself as the first and exclusive provider of advanced high-tech rehabilitation services through Robotic Therapy in the Borneo region. This revolutionary approach utilises the world's

first wearable cyborg technology, and complements their existing range of rehabilitation methods, including Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Child Therapy. The significance of rehabilitation in restoring patient mobility, reintegrating them into the workforce, and enhancing their contributions to society while fostering independence cannot be overstated. Powered by neuro-robotics technology, the robotic suit delivers intensive therapy that expedites the rehabilitation process.

10. Initiated in September 2022, the Robotic Therapy programme has showcased its efficacy in treating a wide array of conditions, including spinal cord injuries, strokes, post-surgical cases, musculoskeletal issues, and neurological disorders. Normah's commitment to innovation is demonstrated by the integration of five Cyberdyne Hybrid Assistive Limbs (HALs) within the centre - comprising two HAL Lower Limbs, two HAL Single Joints, and one Lumbar Unit. These HALs not only facilitate early intervention but also enable comprehensive rehabilitation services, thereby enhancing

accessibility for the Social Security Organisation's (SOCSO) insured individuals in Sarawak.

FOR THE COMMUNITY

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. Beyond medical services, Normah has demonstrated a commitment to its social responsibility. The centre's active participation in community health initiatives, including health awareness campaigns, screening programmes, and outreach efforts, underscores its dedication to preventive care and public health.

12. The Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected all of us, was a time of great need. And in the face of adversity, the dedicated staff of Normah Medical Specialist Centre stood at the forefront, working tirelessly to serve their community. When resources were scarce and demand was high, Normah rose to the occasion by providing affordable PCR tests, enabling access to critical testing when it was needed the most.

13. The centre also adeptly transformed into a hub for vaccine distribution, and an innovative 'one-chair' methodology was introduced to streamline the administration

of Covid-19 vaccines to patients. Additionally, the centre extended its services to include a drive-through vaccination facility at its sheltered parking area, catering to those with special needs.

NEW HOSPITAL

14. Normah Medical Specialist Centre has been one of the major contributors to Sarawak's thriving medical tourism, attracting patients from beyond our borders, especially from Pontianak and Singkawang in Kalimantan.

In light of this, we are building a new Normah Hospital that will be equipped with the latest and most advanced medical technologies.

15. This state-of-the-art hospital is being built by the river's edge, offering patients an environment that nurtures healing and tranquillity as they receive their treatment. We will also make the new hospital environmentally friendly and complement it with a shopping complex and hotel. This holistic ecosystem aims to provide patients and their families with comfort and convenience.

16. The new hospital will not be just a structure but a space where patients, doctors, and the community converge - a testament to the commitment to pushing boundaries, embracing innovation, and serving patients with excellence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Normah Medical Specialist Centre this evening, let us acknowledge the collective effort of the dedicated staff, visionary leadership, and the countless lives that have been positively impacted by the centre. At this juncture, let me reassure

that the Sarawak Government will continue to support the centre in its unrelenting pursuit of innovation, research, medical excellence, and delivering high-quality healthcare to the community.

Kacak rona buah bidara,

Rasa manis banyak khasiat,

Kacak nama indah didengar,

Pesakit sedunia udah dirawat.

18. To show our gratitude for the dedication and effort of all Normah confirmed staff, I have endorsed the recommendation by the Board of Directors to award **incentive payout** for financial

year 2022. I'm also delighted that Normah is able to declare dividend to state Government.

19. Congratulations to Normah Medical Specialist Centre on 35 years of excellence, and here's to a future filled with continued advancements, life-changing care, and a lasting impact on healthcare in our region.

Sekian, terima kasih!