

# Making good on promise made

Chairman of newly reopened medical centre pays doctors, specialists their dues

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THERE were happy faces all around at the Mawar Haemodialysis Centre (PHM) auditorium in Seremban, Negri Sembilan, as chairman Datuk Lee Tian Hock delivered his promise to pay doctors and specialists at the recently-reopened Mawar Medical Centre their dues totalling RM4.5mil.

Lee, who made a commitment to pay the medical personnel including visiting doctors within a week after the Health Ministry allowed the medical centre to reopen, was himself a picture of relief for not disappointing them.

"When I met the doctors on June 12 at a time when the medical centre was not operating, I made a promise that I would pay them their dues within a week after the Health Ministry gives the medical centre the permission to reopen.

"Now that it has been seven days since we began operations, I would like to make whatever payments that were owed to these doctors and keep my promise," he said to applause from the crowd.

Apart from the RM4.5mil paid to the 33 doctors, PHM also paid another RM3mil to a company which had paid a portion of the dues owed to the doctors before Lee's team took over the



Lee (third from right) talking to a doctor while meeting patients at Mawar Medical Centre after its reopening.

medical centre.

The medical centre was ordered to cease operations on Nov 5 last year following the resignation of almost all its medical specialists because of unpaid salaries.

It was allowed to operate again on Sept 11 following an application from Lee's team.

Lee expressed hope that with the matter settled, the medical

centre could now operate as usual.

"I want the management of the medical centre as well as its haemodialysis unit to work hard and take these facilities to greater heights.

"We are confident that this can be done as we are equipped with some of the best medical facilities in the state," he said, adding that the medical centre, for example,

was only one of two private hospitals in Negri Sembilan that provided angioplasty treatment.

Lee, who had also lent RM5.4mil to the medical centre to pay off the dues of its other staff when its licence was revoked, said the medical centre would start with eight resident specialists.

These include a cardiologist, nephrologist, orthopaedist, anaes-

thesiologist and ENT (ear, nose and throat) specialist.

"We hope to increase our number of resident specialists to include, among others, a paediatrician, obstetrician and gynaecologist, sub-neurosurgery specialist and an ophthalmologist," he said.

He said plans were also under way to increase the number of beds and haemodialysis machines at the medical centre.

"We now have 30 beds and we hope to increase this to 97. The number of machines will also be increased from 44 now to 68 in the next few months," he announced.

He said the medical centre would work with another private hospital in Seremban known as NSCMH Medical Centre.

"We will work as sister hospitals and reciprocate wherever we can," said Lee, who is also NSCMH Medical Centre chairman.

At the event, he appealed to the medical personnel to lead the way by contributing to the hospital's welfare fund.

"We have paid whatever due to you in lump sum and I would truly appreciate it if you could do your bit by giving a token amount to the welfare fund so that we can help poor patients seeking medical and haemodialysis treatment," he said, adding that haemodialysis patients needed between RM1,500 and RM2,000 a month for treatment.