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Philanthropist pulls NSCMH out of the red

Medical centre registers profit for the first time

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SEREMBAN: Five years ago, the non-profit NSCMH Medical Centre, which was already facing poor business, was slapped with a partial closure by the Health Ministry for committing several violations under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act.

The hospital's in-patient services were suspended and warded patients were moved to other hospitals when a majority of its specialists left, as they had not been paid their dues.

Mired in debts, the management then appealed to property developer and philanthropist Datuk Lee Tian Hock for help.

Seeing that it was a charitable organisation, Lee decided to do his bit.

Lee came in with his team and gradually advanced RM17.1mil of his money to help revive the hospital, which is now 87 years old.

Yesterday, there were happy faces at the 85th annual general meeting of NSCMH when Lee, who is NSCMH president, told members that the hospital had for the first time registered a profit after depreciation of RM4.67mil.

"I am happy to announce that we achieved a net profit before depreciation of RM8.29mil as against RM2.76mil for 2018.

"The net profit after depreciation has turned around a net loss of RM1.04mil in 2018, thus further strengthening the financial position of the hospital," he said.

(The NSCMH Medical Centre started out as the Negri Sembilan Chinese



Stay positive: Lee stressing a point during the NSCMH AGM.

Maternity Hospital in 1932 by Chinese businessmen and philanthropists.)

Lee said the hospital had also written off bad debts of RM1.04mil which were outstanding monies owed by patients since 2014.

The NSCMH had also registered a 44% jump in revenue to RM65.88mil as against RM45.64mil in 2018, he said.

"In keeping with our promise to give at least half of our profit for the welfare and benefit of the staff, the board has also agreed to declare a bonus of between 1.5 months and 2.25 months to our 400 staff.

"The bonus and medical expenses for our staff totalled RM2.6mil and is actually 56% of our profit," he said.

NSCMH's performance was even more remarkable considering that it had to subsidise 395 patients at 11 dialysis branches every month of about RM200,000 that it took over from the Mawar Haemodialysis Centre (MHC).

The patients had been left in limbo after the ministry revoked

MHC's licence.

The NSCMH has also spent RM3.13mil to help poor patients who could not afford to pay for treatment over the past five years.

"We will be applying to the ministry to allow us to increase our beds from the current 62 to 84 as we have been consistently registering 80% occupancy.

"We hope the ministry can grant us the approval by the middle of next year," he said, adding that NSCMH now had 16 resident consultants and 23 visiting consultants.

The hospital only had 32 beds when Lee's team took over five years ago.

Lee also expressed confidence that the NSCMH would do even better next year and set a revenue target of RM75mil.

At the AGM, the members also passed a resolution to appoint Prof Datuk Seri Dr K. Sree Raman as the hospital's Group CEO and Hendric Koo as CEO with effect from Jan 2, 2020.