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Seremban hospital to be corporatised to serve the underprivileged

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SEREMBAN: Members at the Negri Sembilan Chinese Maternity Association (NSCMA) extraordinary general meeting have unanimously passed a resolution to restructure the 88-year-old CMH Specialist Hospital set up by Chinese philanthropists then to serve the underprivileged and poor immigrants.

This paves the way for the centre, known as NSCMH Medical Centre until two months ago and NS Chinese Maternity Hospital earlier, to be corporatised to better serve the community without relying on government grants or donations.

Hospital president Datuk Lee Tian Hock, who had been instrumental in helping to revive the hospital which was mired in debts seven years ago, said his target now was to get it listed

on Bursa Malaysia's ACE Market within five years.

"Sixty-two members who were physically present and three others voted online in favour of the resolution. We will now incorporate a company to be known as NSCMH Holdings Sdn Bhd which will in turn hold all the shares in another entity known as CMH Healthcare Sdn Bhd to run the business," he told reporters after the meeting.

With the resounding endorsement from members, Lee has given his team six months to get the necessary approvals from the Health Ministry, Companies Commission of Malaysia, the state government and the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry before corporatisation could be carried out.

"Our target is that CMH Healthcare must start operating by January 2021," he said, adding that the entire



Beginning of an era: Lee (left) and CMH Specialist Hospital secretary Datuk N. Logendran applauding after unveiling the hospital's new name.

corporatisation exercise was to unlock the value of the business and plan for expansion.

Lee said if the plans materialised, an annex block would be built which would increase its beds to 130. The hospital currently has 62 beds.

He said CMH Healthcare would also pay NSCMA RM300,000 a month to lease its properties every month. This will allow NSCMA to continue to subsidise its dialysis operations

which costs about RM150,000 a month.

The NSCMA currently runs one centre at the CMH Specialist Hospital as well as 11 other centres with a total of 590 patients.

"The remaining cash can be used to help poor patients who seek treatment at the hospital," Lee said.

He gave an assurance that despite the proposed corporatisation, the hospital's charges will remain com-

petitive and lower by up to 20% compared to other private establishments.

Lee said members also had no reason to fear the NSCMA losing its identity and objectives to help the poor as it would always hold the controlling stake in NSCMH Holdings.

The hospital has 18 resident and 27 visiting consultants across a wide range of medical disciplines.