

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NATION

Our nurses deserve much better

Higher pay and flexible hours key to retaining health workers, say experts

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PETALING JAYA: Better incentives, including flexible working hours, are vital to retain nurses in the face of a critical shortage, particularly in Malaysia's public healthcare sector.

Malayan Nurses Union president Saaidah Athman said the average starting salary for nurses is around RM1,800, with new recruits placed under the Employees Provident Fund scheme instead of the civil service pension scheme.

Meanwhile, the starting salary of a U29 grade nurse with a nursing diploma begins at RM1,797 in the public sector.

A RM100 allowance is paid to specialist nurses with advanced qualifications in the form of post-basic incentive allowance.

"All these will not attract the younger generation to nursing. They would definitely choose to

go to the private sector or overseas, where the salaries are better and there is some flexibility in working hours.

"The workload is also rising with the increasing number of patients. Some have to do double duty with tasks not limited to nursing care, but also administrative work, moving patients across units, pushing medicine trolleys to the pharmacy and so on.

"So, one can imagine how exhausted nurses here are compared to overseas, where nurses only focus on their respective nursing care duties," she said.

She added that the transition to the 45-hour work week is not helping at all.

Aside from resignations and low intakes, she said fewer colleges are offering nursing courses, which has impacted the number of prospective nurses joining the workforce.

"The Health Ministry must fix the nursing system by offering

attractive incentives and flexible working hours," she said, adding that the post-basic incentive allowance must also be reviewed as RM100 is too low.

"Nurses are paid RM3,000 and above for post-basic allowance overseas, and in private practice in Asia, it is about RM500," Saaidah noted.

Independent health advocate Dr Sean Thum agreed, saying that Malaysian nurses are drawn abroad due to the very real possibility of a more balanced life there.

Therefore, he said, raising remuneration is key in ensuring adequate manpower in public healthcare.

"We don't pay well enough. Indeed, we are lacking in staff, so the existing staff will have to shoulder more work," he said.

In a statement, Senator Dr RA Lingeshwaran said if the government, particularly the Public Service Department (JPA), contin-

ues with the 45-hour work week within the "already crippled" healthcare system, it would lead more healthcare workers quitting.

"JPA has to bear responsibility if this fails," he said, adding that the move to increase the work week to 45 hours is insensitive and highly risky.

"I have engaged with many nursing associations and unions within the Health Ministry, and the majority have expressed that they will not be able to endure it if the workload continues to increase without any form of compensation or resolution to their welfare," said the former director of Hospital Sungai Bakap in Penang.

The morale of healthcare workers is currently at its lowest point, he added.

"What is needed is not an added burden but support, incentives and recognition for their sacrifices in safeguarding the health of

the people every day.

"Don't wait until public hospitals collapse before pointing fingers. If JPA continues to be rigid, then they will be the ones held accountable by the people," he said.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad had said recently that the country is facing a critical shortage of nurses.

"We have also taken various approaches, including increasing the number of trainees to 1,000, but it still does not meet the shortfall," he was quoted as saying on June 29.

A total of 6,919 healthcare workers under Health Ministry left for the private sector between 2020 and 2024. Of this total, 2,141 were nurses, comprising 1,754 permanent and 387 contract appointees.

If the current trajectory continues, the shortage of nurses is projected to reach almost 60% by 2030.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NATION

Nurses following the money abroad for more opportunities

PETALING JAYA: The brain drain from Malaysia's public healthcare sector is not limited to doctors, as nurses are also taking up offers from countries like Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

M. Devishree said she chose to move to Singapore instead of working in Malaysia due to the stronger currency and proximity to home.

"I would be making RM4,000 here, but being paid S\$3,000 (RM9,951) makes a difference," she said.

The 36-year-old from Kedah said she was able to fund her sibling's higher education with her Singapore salary.

"I don't think that would have been possible if I had remained in government service in Malaysia," said Devishree, who moved after her third year of service.

"I did consider Australia. There are a lot of opportunities there as well. But I choose to settle for Singapore as I am able to travel home a lot faster since my family still lives here."

Another nurse, who only wanted to be known as Yap, also chose Singapore due to opportunities for career progression.

"There is demand for nurses in a lot of countries, especially here (Singapore) and in Saudi Arabia."

"Malaysians are flocking to

these countries to be expatriate nurses because of the salary and also the fact that if you are good, you can make more as time goes by," she said.

V. Sita, who works in Jeddah, said she was able to purchase a house in her hometown in Penang within the first three years of serving in Saudi Arabia.

"The tax-free policy helps. In my case, I can get 8,000 Saudi riyals (RM9,000), while it would have taken way longer back home," she said.

"I will not say the workload is not heavy; it's just like anywhere else. But if the salary is satisfying, I think people are willing to work

"Expatriate nurses are also entitled to the paid vacation scheme, where you are entitled to a certain number of paid annual leave days," she said.

Sita added that it is also easy to adapt to life in Saudi Arabia as it is a growing destination for expatriates.

In a written Dewan Rakyat reply in July last year, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said 2,445 nurses applied to work abroad in 2023.

Citing data from the Malaysian Nursing Board, he said 1,553 or 64% were private sector nurses, while 892 (36%) were from the public sector.

"Malaysians are flocking to these countries to be expatriate nurses because of the salary and... you can make more as time goes by."

Yap

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 19

RUANGAN : NASIONAL



Pembedahan memisahkan kembar siam lelaki dijalankan di Hospital Tunku Azizah, Kuala Lumpur pada 24 Jun lalu.

(Foto ihsan media sosial KKM)

HTA cipta sejarah pisah kembar siam lelaki

Kembar dua bersambung di abdomen, pelvis serta punyai 4 kaki dilaporkan stabil

Oleh Nurul Hidayah Bahaudin
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Kuala Lumpur: Hospital Tunku Azizah (HTA) mencipta sejarah apabila berjaya melaksanakan pembedahan pemisahan sepasang kembar lelaki berusia 3 bulan pada 24 Jun lalu.

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dalam perkongsian di Facebook, memaklumkan pasangan berkenaan adalah *Omphaloischiphagus Tetrapus Conjoined Twin*.

"Ia adalah jenis kembar siam yang amat jarang berlaku dengan kedua-duanya bersambung di ba-

hagian abdomen dan pelvis serta mempunyai empat kaki.

"Pembedahan bermula jam 8.30 pagi dan berakhir jam 9.48 malam dengan pemisahan lengkap berlaku jam 5.43 petang.

Berjalan lancar

"Alhamdulillah, pembedahan berjalan lancar dan kedua-dua bayi kini stabil dan sedang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi Pediatrik (PICU)," katanya.

KKM berkata, pembedahan itu diketuai oleh Dr Mohd Yusof Ab-

dullah, Datuk Dr Zakaria Zahari, Dr Intan Zarina Fakir Mohamed, Dr Phang Yee Yun serta pasukan bedah pediatrik HTA dan Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL).

"Pasangan itu (kembar berkenaan) adalah kembar siam keempat dipisahkan di HTA sejak 2019 dan kes ke-19 secara keseluruhan dalam sejarah HTA serta HKL.

"Tahniah kepada seluruh pasukan atas usaha, kepakaran dan kerjasama luar biasa. Moga kedua-dua anak kecil ini terus membesar dengan sihat dan ceria," katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : BUSINESS

Healthcare reform

THE Health Ministry has introduced several strategies to digitalise all clinics by 2027 and hospitals by 2029, says Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

» REPORT BY **S. BIRRUNTHA**
ON **PAGES 4-5**



AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 1
RUANGAN : BUSINESS

INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM

MINISTRY'S DIGITAL HEALTHCARE TRANSFORMATION

MySejahtera app, reform agenda and new technologies to enhance government capabilities

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TO keep pace with the rapid changes brought about by digitalisation, Malaysia needs to develop a more integrated healthcare system, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

The Health Ministry has introduced several key strategies to support the nationwide digitalisation of health clinics by 2027 and hospitals by 2029.

The MySejahtera app is being transformed into a one-stop digital health platform while hundreds of health clinics have been or are being digitalised.

Dr Dzulkefly said the ministry is also integrating Malaysians' medical records into MySejahtera.

The ministry recently included digital capture of dental visits and pharmacy dispensing records alongside virtual consultation reports, health screening results and vaccination records in MySejahtera.

"To date, 1.9 million dental records have been integrated into the system, and four million pharmacy records are currently stored and managed in MySejahtera."

"Moving forward, the ministry is dedicated to ensuring an integrated health summary where records from hospital and clinic visits can be stored and retrieved via MySejahtera."

"By unifying these records, MySejahtera empowers both healthcare providers and patients with timely, accurate and accessible health information, improving continuity of care and enhancing patient engagement," he said in an email interview.

Dr Dzulkefly said as MySejahtera continues to evolve, it will play a pivotal role in building a connected, patient-centric digital health ecosystem.

GOVERNMENT CLINICS GOING DIGITAL

Dr Dzulkefly said the ministry's aim to digitalise government health clinics will ensure reduction in patient waiting time and optimum patient care.

However, he said the state of digital infrastructure in hospitals must be evaluated as advanced solutions cannot be effectively implemented without a solid foundation.

"I will be frank with you. Many hospitals in Malaysia lack the necessary digital infrastructure."

"Outdated hardware, insufficient network capabilities and fragmented data systems continue to create bottlenecks and hinder system implementation. This is the reality."

Malaysia has close to 150 government hospitals, but only 22 have fully functional digital infrastructure, he said.

"There are 1,118 health clinics nationwide, with only 206 equipped with the necessary infrastructure for the electronic medical record (EMR) system."

"Equipping our facilities with adequate hardware and reliable network infrastructure, along with adopting a comprehensive and robust EMR system tailored to the ministry's requirements, is essential to ensure digital readiness and accelerate the pace of digitalisation."

CONSTRAINTS AND SOLUTIONS

Dr Dzulkefly said although the ministry continues to face funding constraints, it is continuously exploring ways to tackle the digitalisation issue.

"This includes assessing each hospital's readiness and equipping them with the necessary tools and resources to successfully implement digital healthcare systems."

On data security, he said the ministry is aware of public concerns.

Network penetration in rural areas also remains a key issue.

Dr Dzulkefly said Malaysia has several clinics equipped with satellite Internet in rural areas, ensuring remote communities have access to essential healthcare services.

He said these clinics can now carry out tele-consultation.

As of April, a total of 1,089 virtual consultations had been conducted between remote communities and health clinics in Sabah and Sarawak using satellite-enabled facilities.

"Apart from that, we have also strengthened audit systems under National Cyber Security Agency, Malaysia Office of the Chief Government Security Officer and National Digital Department on data, security infrastructure and best practices on monitoring and proactive actions."

"These have also been presented in Parliament. Our aim is to work alongside industry experts to improve digital system usage in the healthcare system," he said.

LEGACY ISSUES

Dr Dzulkefly acknowledged that there are long-standing challenges in the system.



The ministry is addressing them by introducing improved practices and structural reforms.

He said it is focused on long-term solutions that strengthen governance, enhance service delivery and accelerate the adoption of digital tools to resolve these issues effectively and prevent their recurrence.

One of the challenges is the medical officer placement system, which does not fully reflect current needs or priorities.

"The previous placement systems often created a situation where individuals had to race to secure positions, with speed taking precedence over suitability or merit."

"This approach placed unnecessary pressure on applicants and did not always result in the best match for service needs."

"As such, we are not merely upgrading the technology stack, we are rethinking the policy foundations beneath it."

"Our goal is to gradually shift to a more transparent, responsive and merit-aligned process that better reflects workforce needs, applicant preferences and national service priorities."

Dr Dzulkefly said the introduction of the updated e-Placement is part of the ministry's broader reform agenda.

He said beyond digitalisation, it is about fairness, accountability and building public trust in how the ministry conducts its business of improving the health of Malaysians.

Furthermore, he said the ministry recognises the rapid changes in the industry and has leveraged

industry experts to provide the most effective tools and software solutions.

The ministry is partnering with experts to strengthen and accelerate its digital capabilities.

This has enabled it to optimise resources, reduce costs and ensure

that the country is equipped with the latest, most efficient technologies.

"For perspective, it previously took the ministry 15 years to digitalise 107 clinics using an on-premise-based EMR system."

"In contrast, with the subscrip-

tion-based, cloud-based clinic management system, 50 clinics were digitalised in just two months."

"This resulted in significant savings in both time and cost and sets the stage for us to accelerate the digitalisation of the remaining healthcare facilities."

IPO PRICE OF 17 SEN

ASM Automation opens flat on ACE Market

KUALA LUMPUR: ASM Automation Group Bhd made a steady debut on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia yesterday.

The stock opened at its initial public offering (IPO) price of 17 sen. The automation solutions provider was the most actively traded counter at the opening, with over 10 million shares changing hands.

The stock ended the day at 16.5 sen.

The IPO raised RM21.82 million from a public issue of 128.34 million new shares, representing 24 per cent of ASM Automation's enlarged issued share capital of 534.77 million shares.

It also includes an offer for sale of 53.48 million existing shares, equivalent to 10 per cent of the enlarged issued share capital.

ASM Automation is the 33rd firm to be listed on Bursa Malaysia this year and the 24th on the ACE Market.

ASM Automation has allocated



ASM Automation Group Bhd directors and other officials at the listing of the company on the ACE Market yesterday. PIC FROM PR AGENCY

RM11.4 million, more than half of the IPO proceeds, for land acquisition and construction of a factory to boost its production and assembly capacity.

Another RM2.3 million, or 10.5 per cent, will go towards the purchase of machinery, equipment, and components to support operational growth and enhance customer engagement.

The company has set aside RM2 million (9.2 per cent) for design and development initiatives to strength-

en its research and development, while RM1.92 million (8.8 per cent) will be used as working capital. The remaining RM4.2 million, or 19.3 per cent of the proceeds, will cover listing-related expenses.

M&A Securities Sdn Bhd is the principal adviser, sponsor, underwriter and placement agent for the IPO, while Eco Asia Capital Advisory Sdn Bhd serves as the financial adviser.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 25

RUANGAN : FORUM

Jangan ambil mudah hukum hisap vape

SAYA ingin mengulas artikel *Utusan Malaysia* bertajuk *Pengharaman vape pilih bulu, tindas peniaga bumiputera*, terbitan 5 Jun lalu.

Persoalan yang timbul kini adalah kewujudan vape sebagai bahan hisapan yang baharu. Pada pandangan saya, ia sebenarnya hanya menambah lagi masalah sedia ada, yang sehingga kini masih belum kelihatan jalan penyelesaiannya.

Selagi ada permintaan dan penjualan, selagi itulah kita terus diperdaya pelbagai bahan atau perkara yang membawa keburukan. Apa jua alasan yang mengatakan ia sebagai sumber rezeki tidak boleh diterima sama sekali. Dalam Islam, jika sesuatu perkara itu bercampur antara yang halal dan haram, walaupun haramnya sedikit dan halalnya lebih banyak, ia tetap dihukum haram keseluruhannya.

Pengharaman vape pilih bulu, tindas peniaga bumiputera



UTUSAN Malaysia
5 Jun 2025.

TEROPONG JAUH
Jerantut, Pahang

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 10
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Sakthivel dipindahkan ke hospital swasta

Kuala Terengganu: Kanak-kanak yang terbabit dalam tragedi bot terbalik di perairan Pulau Perhentian, Besut, Sabtu lalu, dipindahkan ke hospital swasta selepas dibenarkan keluar dari Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah (HSNZ), kelmarin.

Sakthivel Tamil Selvan, 6, dibenarkan keluar dari ICU selepas kesihatannya semakin pulih dan dipindahkan ke wad kanak-kanak di HSNZ, kira-kira jam 9 pagi kelmarin.

Bagaimanapun, ahli keluarga Sakthivel meminta kebenaran pengurusan HSNZ untuk membawa mangsa mendapatkan rawatan di sebuah hospital swasta di Selangor.

Pegawai Khas kepada Menteri Besar Terengganu, Dr Balachandran Gopal Krishnan berkata, mangsa dihantar ke hos-

pital swasta di Selangor menggunakan ambulans swasta dibiayai majikan bapanya.

"Keadaan mangsa sudah semakin pulih selepas menerima rawatan selama tiga hari mulai Sabtu lalu," katanya ketika dihubungi, semalam.

Sabtu lalu, tiga termasuk dua kanak-kanak berusia antara 3 dan 10 tahun maut selepas bot dinaiki terbalik ketika dalam perjalanan daripada Pulau Perhentian Kecil ke Pulau Perhentian Besar.

Mangsa yang maut ialah S Arumugam, 40, dan anaknya, A Sarvviha, 3, serta saudara, V Vennpani, 10.

Dr Balachandran berkata, kerajaan negeri menanggung semua kos pengurusan dan penghantaran balik mayat ke Sungai Petani, Kedah dan ke Butterworth, Pulau Pinang.