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Negri hospital subsidises over 500 dialysis patients

Cost of PCR tests also absorbed as part of its CSR initiative

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THE Covid-19 pandemic may have hit businesses hard but this has not stopped CMH Specialist Hospital in Seremban, Negri Sembilan, from spending millions of ringgit in continuing to subsidise 589 dialysis patients as well as buying new machines for their treatment.

The hospital even absorbed the RM1.5mil cost for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for its inpatients for 13 months, from April last year.

In addition, its 449 employees were paid a special Covid-19 allowance and bonus involving some RM4mil in appreciation for their hard work.

Hospital president Datuk Lee Tian Hock said RM3.2mil was spent on its dialysis operations in 2020, and that it would continue to do so despite the huge costs.

"We are happy that we are able to provide a subsidy and absorb the PCR cost for inpatients as we consider it part of our corporate social responsibility.

"The hospital also changed the dialysis and reverse osmosis machines, reprocessors and dialysis chairs at our 11 dialysis branches to ensure the safety and comfort



Lee (centre) with a copy of the annual report. With him are vice-president Datuk Hon Choon Kim (right) and secretary Datuk N. Logendran.

of patients are not compromised," he said at the hospital's 87th annual general meeting here.

He added that RM300,000 was spent on patients who could not afford surgery at the hospital last year and another million went towards buying personal protective equipment for its medical staff.

Lee said although the hospital's revenue increased marginally by 1.9% to RM80.9mil in 2020 com-

pared to the previous year, it only managed to register a net profit before depreciation of RM790,000 due to its CSR work and other initiatives to provide quality medical care.

He expressed confidence that the hospital would be able to do better this year as the management had several plans lined up.

"We have submitted plans to renovate a block to increase the

number of beds from 62 to 80, and for a four-bedded daycare unit.

"We expect to get the approvals in the second quarter of this year," he said, adding that the hospital currently had 17 resident and 27 visiting consultants.

The hospital, set up 88 years ago, was initially known as Negri Sembilan Chinese Maternity Hospital and had its name changed to NSCMH Medical Centre a few

years ago.

Recently, it was changed to CMH Specialist Hospital.

Lee's team took over the management in 2015, as it was facing closure due to increasing debts.

After his team took over, it continued to register a deficit for two years. However, it then started registering growth.

Lee, a property developer, had also gradually advanced RM17.1mil of his money to help revive the hospital, which at that time had only 32 beds.

He said a plan to corporatise and restructure the hospital to ensure it remained sustainable and could continue to provide quality treatment to patients and the underprivileged was expected to be executed by next January.

"With the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination programme, we are also expecting a better year ahead.

"I have set a revenue target of RM85mil for this year and am confident that we can achieve a net profit before depreciation and tax of RM2mil," he added.