

PRESS STATEMENT

Immediate Release

Press Statement by YB Senior Minister of Works for answering articles on the Borneo Post news portal, 29 August 2020.

Referring to the Borneo Post news portal report dated 29 August 2020, 'Govt needs to be proactive in expediting works on abandoned hospital projects in Sarawak'.

The Petrajaya Hospital Construction Project is implemented to provide conducive health service infrastructure in Petrajaya, Sarawak. In addition to reducing congestion at the Sarawak General Hospital, the new hospital also serves as a second hospital for residents in and around Kuching, covering the northern part of Kuching as well as the Bau and Lundu areas.

Construction of the Petrajaya Hospital Construction project started on 30 May 2013. However, this project has been delayed and did not show encouraging performance which resulted in the project could not be completed according to the set schedule. Government action is taken on the need to safeguard the interests of the people and people of Sarawak.

The Public Works Department (JKR) is aware of this issue and proactive action has been taken by implementing the Re-Tender process to Complete the Abandoned Work Balance for the Proposed Petrajaya Hospital (300 beds) in Petrajaya, Kuching, Sarawak in Design and Build. Current status in the Tender Evaluation stage by JKR Malaysia and the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH). The issuance of the Letter of Acceptance is targeted at the end of December 2020 and the Date of ownership at the construction site in January 2021.

Meanwhile, the implementation of the Lawas Hospital Project (76 Beds) involving Phase 2B, the latest status of project implementation has started construction on 30 June 2020 and will be completed by the end of 2023. Until 31 July 2020, the actual progress percentage is 0.13%. Confirmation of zoning and internal layout of hospital design was completed on 12 August 2020.

The completion of this project with a total area of 23,427 square meters will provide hospital facilities of 76 beds containing male and female patient wards which each provide facilities of 28 beds (56 beds), children's ward of 20 beds and High ward Dependency Ward (HDW) has 4 beds. The hospital is also equipped with administrative office space facilities, hemodialysis unit, delivery room, operating room, blood bank, pathology department, x-ray unit, Catering Unit, cafeteria and morgue.

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It is expected that with the government's noble efforts to provide the best health infrastructure, it will be able to provide double benefits to the improvement of the health status of the people in Lawas, especially the rural population in receiving health facilities on par with the urban community.

The Sri Aman Hospital project is being actively completed and is expected to be completed in February 2021. Close monitoring has been carried out by JKR by holding coordination meetings and joint inspections regularly to ensure its completion achieves the set targets. The physical performance of this project increased during the current period and is not listed as a red project.

JKR has taken proactive measures in the preparation and implementation of hospitals in Sarawak by intensifying efforts to improve the monitoring performance of projects in general and in particular with the involvement of the MOH. MOH Development Project Monitoring Meetings are held periodically with close monitoring every week and continuous supervision by JKR to determine the progress of projects on construction sites.

In this regard, the allegation by Vice-President of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR), Dr Michael Teo, that the Government, especially the Public Works Department (JKR) is not proactive in its efforts to complete several hospitals in Sarawak is not true at all. This is because JKR is constantly monitoring the progress of the project and taking all necessary measures towards accelerating its implementation, despite facing some unavoidable constraints.

Even the midst of battling COVID-19, the government has done its best including ensuring adequate facilities. For example, in Kuching, apart from Sarawak General Hospital (HUS), COVID-19 patients are also housed at Anjung Kasih HUS, Youth and Sports Complex and College of Allied Health Science Kuching, Batu 13. The seriousness of the Malaysian Government in dealing with COVID-19 as well as the acceptance of the people has also been proven among the four best in the world and the best in Asean.

Thus, the actions of PKR leaders who tried to link the delay in the hospital project allegedly causing a lack of place to treat COVID-19 patients is not true at all. This can be seen as playing with perception and distorting the facts to serve their political interests.

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30 August 2020

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