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# Only complicated Labuan cases sent to QEH

By Adrian Nandu

**LABUAN:** Patients will be referred to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kota Kinabalu for certain cases which are complicated for Labuan Hospital to handle.

"Patients needing special treatments have to go to Kota Kinabalu," said Labuan Health Department director Dr Hj. Zaini Hussin, yesterday when asked to comment on the claims on Nov 28 by DAP Labuan chief Lau Seng Kiat that he always saw ambulance queuing for the ferry to Menumbok to transfer patients to the state capital.

Lau said the situation would not happen if the island had more medical doctors, including specialists and better facilities available at the hospital to meet all types of medical treatment sought by the patients.

He claimed that Labuan as a federal territory should be equipped with all those things and not relying on Sabah for any medical treatment.

Dr Zaini said the facilities available at the hospital here are better compared to those in several states in West Malaysia.

Meanwhile, on the issue of medical doctor shortage, including medical specialists here, he said Labuan Hospital still needs a paediatrics.

"Basically, for a standard hospital in this country, there must be at least four medical doctors and they are a gynaecologist, a general doctor, a surgeon and a paediatrician.

"But, we still have no paediatrician here," he said, adding that so far there are 18 doctors serving at Labuan Nucleus Hospital.

Dr Zaini was approached at Labuan Walk where he launched a cycling programme organised by the Health Department staff in conjunction with World Heart Day and World AIDS Day.

He also disclosed that around 70 to 80 new cases of tuberculosis are found among the people by the Health Department here each year, where 87 per cent of the patients are

treated successfully by the medical team here.

He said there were two cases of patients detected with HIV last year.

"The Health Department will collaborate with the Federal Territory Islamic Affairs Department (JAWI) here to request couples to undergo a HIV test first before getting married.

"We will also ask mothers in their first pregnancy to undergo HIV scanning," he said.

"Since the first AIDS case was detected back in 1986, the government is committed to fight against the disease by doing a lot of advertisements to create awareness among the people," he said.

He urged local leaders and the community here to join hands with the department in its effort to tackle the deadly disease.

Dr Zaini said the people

here are also facing the risk of heart disease or heart attack.

He said among the factors causing the disease are lack of physical activity, unhealthy food, smoking and stress.

Meanwhile, about 100 participants from the department, together with the local community, cycled 39km around the island to promote a healthy lifestyle among the islanders, yesterday.

The department staff would also be cycling to Sipitang, Menumbok, Kuala Penyu, Membakut and Beaufort from today to promote a healthy lifestyle among the people along their journey.

Also present were Malaysia Health Promotion Board representative Nurul Nadia Hamdan and Labuan Hospital medical doctor Dr Adam Firdaus.



Dr Zaini