



08 SEP, 2026

Quality treatment should not be limited by distance E:

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



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KENINGAU: The permanent placement of medical specialists at rural hospitals in Sabah is a crucial step towards ensuring that quality medical treatment is not limited by distance.

The Bingkor Health Clinic Advisory Panel (PPKK) regarded the Health Ministry (MoH)'s move of expanding the placement of specialists in several hospitals in Sabah as a strategic step towards strengthening healthcare equity in the state.

They said the permanent placements of specialist at hospitals such as those in Kota Marudu and Beaufort would provide direct benefits to the local communities.

"The placement of specialists closer to the people is not merely about expanding the access to treatment.

"It is also an important effort to bridge the healthcare gap between urban and interior areas so that every citizen has the opportunity to receive quality medical services without being hindered by distance," said PPKK Bingkor in a statement on Monday, which represented the views from its chairman Darian Karim, committee member Wong Jakol Langkab and treasurer Laila Bikolos.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad had previously said that the MoH would expand the placement of medical specialists to several hospitals in Sabah to address shortages



Darian Karim



Laila Bikolos

of specialist personnel, while strengthening the rotation of specialist services to rural areas.

In addition, PPKK Bingkor also welcomed strategic cooperation with the private sector through Hospital Services Outs well as collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sabah Hospital (HUMS).

It said such initiatives could help increase the capacity of Sabah's healthcare system, reduce congestion at public hospitals and speed up treatment for patients.

However, it stressed that the healthcare transformation agenda should also give adequate attention to facilities



Wong Jakol Langkab

at the grassroots level, including Bingkor Health Clinic, Apin-Apin Health Clinic and others serving the rural and interior communities.

"Efforts to strengthen rural healthcare facilities should include improvements to basic infrastructure, the provision of adequate medical equipment and sufficient manpower to meet current needs.

"Healthcare development should not be measured solely by the number of buildings, the technology available or the number of facilities provided.

"What matters is the extent to which every citizen, regardless of where they live or their background, can access the best possible treatment," said PPKK Bingkor.

It regarded healthcare as being a fundamental right of the people. Bringing specialist services, facilities and healthcare personnel to areas that have traditionally faced limitations, shows that no community is being left behind in the country's development agenda," it said.



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SUMMARIES

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