

First clinic in Malaysia launched to address healthcare needs of refugees

NATION

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PETALING JAYA: Universal health coverage is important and should be catered to all walks of life, as recommended by the World Health Organisation.

As such, the Qatar Charity (QC) and Yayasan Kebajikan Negara (YKN) has launched its first clinic, specially for refugees in Malaysia. The move is to comprehensively address the healthcare needs of refugees.

Mercy Malaysia president Datuk Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus, along with YKN CEO, Datin Paduka Che Asmah Ibrahim and QC county director Karam Zeinhom Aly, officiated the opening ceremony of the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD) humanitarian clinic on Dec 19.

There are over 180,000 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR) in Kuala Lumpur, with many more unregistered.

The three-year project, which is fully funded by QFFD, will see the collaboration of three of the leading medical relief NGOs in Malaysia, Mercy Malaysia, Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia (IMARET) and Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA) with support from the UNHCR.

This project hopes to reduce the burden of Malaysia healthcare system in the long run with their efforts.

In a press conference, Che Asmah said that she hopes with this clinic, it can prevent disease complications and avoid overcrowding at government hospitals.

“We aim to effectively address potential public health problems such as disease outbreaks,” she added.

Ahmad Faizal said that the project is a tripartite initiative between the government, local NGOs and international agencies.

“It is a collaborative effort across several levels, including potential beneficiaries themselves,” he added.

This project is designed to reinforce UNHCR services by bringing healthcare to refugees who are unable to seek the care needed due to various circumstances such as being bedridden, poverty, lack of transportation and lack of knowledge.

The entire project is said to benefit an estimate of 120,000 refugees in the country.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:

WHO , Qatar Charity , Yayasan Kebajikan Negara , Mercy Malaysia , Clinic , Malaysia , Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus