

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our first newsletter for this year is a snapshot of what the Sarawak Branch had been up to in the first six months of 2024.

Much of it saw us busy with preparing for the 15th Malaysian Hospice Council Congress (MHCC2024), which will take place on 25-27 July in Sibul, Sarawak. We are looking forward to meeting our friends and colleagues in palliative care, an occasion made even more special by this congress being our first physical meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cover story of Mr R offers a glimpse into the much larger picture of caring for a palliative patient and their family.

NCSMSB does not charge for its services. We rely on public and corporate donations, and government grants to fund our activities. Many of us are volunteers. If you find it within your means to donate or help, do get in touch. Join us in our mission of Giving Hope, Celebrating Life.

Dr Lam Chin Chyou

BEYOND MEDICAL CARE



NCSMSB volunteers, Mr R's family members, and church pastor gather around his bed.

The story of Mr R, 38, is an example of how palliative care sometimes requires several agencies to join hands and provide comprehensive care for the entire family.

Mr R was diagnosed with advanced rectosigmoid cancer which had metastasized to the liver. He had a colostomy done in 2022, and underwent numerous chemotherapies. Unfortunately, the cancer had spread to the liver.

His wife took over the role of main breadwinner, working as school cleaner. Mr R, who was a labourer, opened a stall in front of his house, selling cucur pisang and drinks. The house is an incomplete 2-bedroom house in Kota Samarahan, with only the most basic of necessities - electricity and water supply.

The eldest three of his six children (ages 5-18) dropped out of school. Due to restrictions during COVID-19, the youngest son went without a birth certificate and MyKid.

NCSMSB loaned out a medical bed, ripple mattress, walking frames and cardiac table; and covered the cost to transport the items to and fro to their home as the family only owned a motorcycle. NCSMSB also provided consumable items such as colostomy bags, gauze and dressing pad. The family received support via numerous palliative visits consisting of volunteer doctors, nurses, social workers, church pastoral staff and volunteers.

Mr R lost his battle to cancer after 83 days under the palliative care of NCSMSB. The family continues to receive financial aid, food aid and educational aid from NCSMSB's many charity partners, while the youngest son is expected to receive a birth certificate and MyKid by the end of August. Mr R's wife shared that a Good Samaritan had offered to finish the incomplete sections of the house for free.

Story by Palliative Home Care Team

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support
our cause!**

BANK TRANSFER



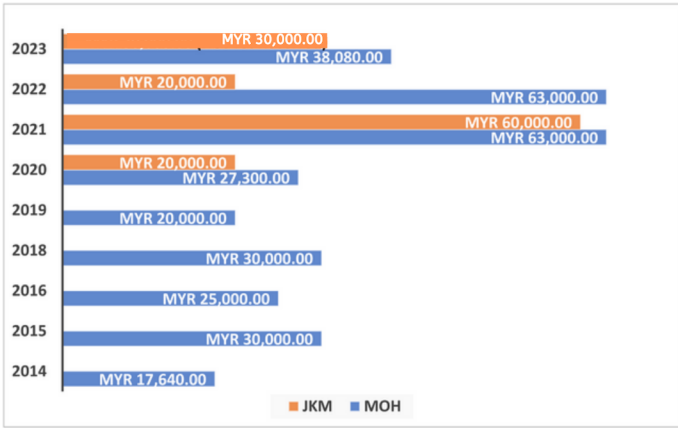
The National Cancer Society
Of Malaysia Sarawak Branch

RHB A/C No. 211-212-5006-1883

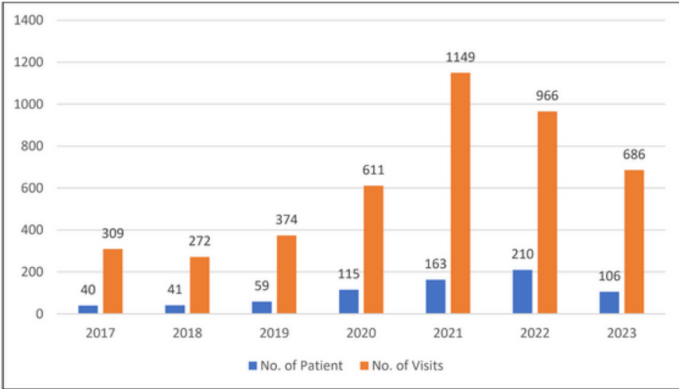


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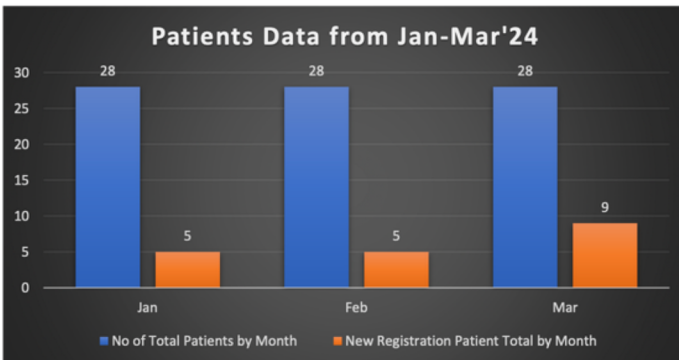
SOCIETY IN GRAPHS



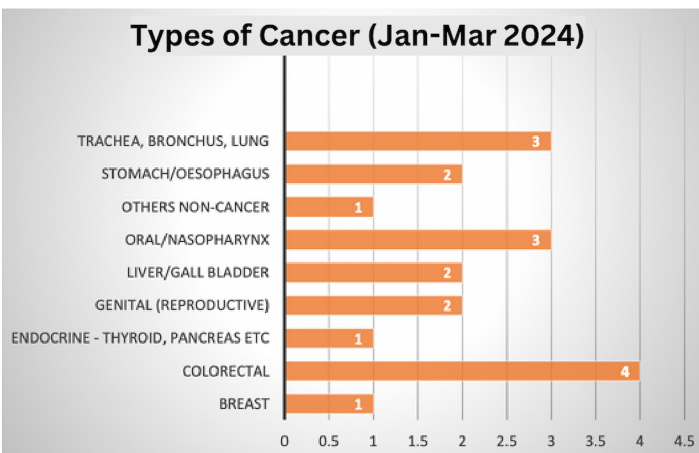
ACCOUNTS: Grants from JKM and MOH



HOME CARE: Two nurses cover an average of 250-300km each in home visits every month



HOME CARE: Number of current patients and new registrations per month Jan-Mar 2024.



SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

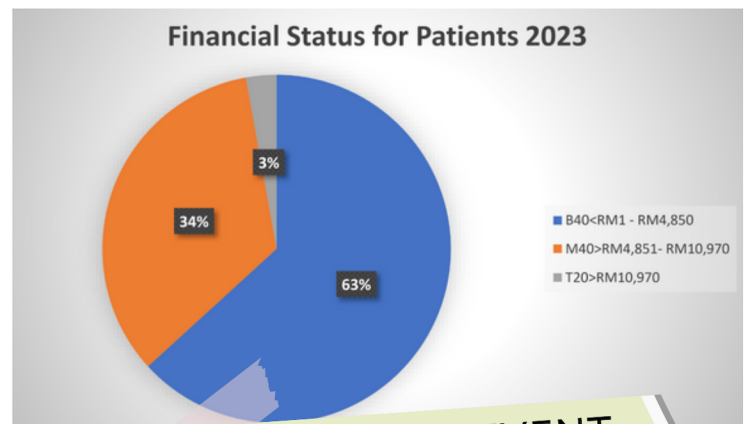
Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month 2024 Sarawak General Hospital 7th-8th March 2024



NCSMSB secretary Mdm Bibiana Pek speaks to booth visitors Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian (left) and SGH Hospital Director Dr Ngian Hie Ung (right).



NCSMSB administrators Janice and Jessie sharing information from behind the NCSMSB booth at the event.



UPCOMING EVENT

15th Malaysian Hospice Council Congress



Strengthening Connections and Collaborations in Palliative Care

25-27 July 2024 @ Kingwood Inn, Sibul
<https://mhcc2024.com>