

# *Sarawak Branch Newsletter 1/2025*

THE NATIONAL CANCER SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA SARAWAK BRANCH

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The 15th Malaysian Hospice Council Congress (MHCC2024) last July was a resounding success thanks to all involved from the organising committee, to our knowledgable speakers, to our selfless volunteers.

The message that stayed with us is the urgent need to reach out to smaller towns in Sarawak and create awareness of palliative services. These services and the NGOs who provide them are currently centred in major towns such as Kuching, Miri and Sibu.

We need to do more than what is achieved today.

While NCSMSB has established the platform and the recognition in the community to carry out its hospice and palliative care for cancer patients at home, the community itself need to rise up and care for each other, leading to a more peaceful, healthy and happy environment for Sarawakians living in this beautiful and much loved State.

Dr Lam Chin Chyou

### PLANTING "SEEDS OF PALLIATIVE CARE"



The 15th Malaysian Hospice Council Congress (MHCC2024), held last year in Sibu, Sarawak, was a breakthrough as it acted as a catalyst to raise the awareness regarding palliative care amongst medical and local communities notably in Sarawak.

MHCC2024 host NCSMSB hopes that the "seed of palliative care" that was successfully planted in Sibu, will be nurtured and encouraged to grow and spread in Sarawak to reach even the rural communities of the State such as Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Mukah, Kapit and Limbang.

NCSMSB was established to create cancer awareness and the idea of the early detection of cancer through cancer screening. Upon realising there is a gap in services, the society stepped up to provide palliative home care services.

Palliative Home Care Service was new to Sarawak but catered to the needs of terminally-ill cancer patients who preferred to remain at home. NGOs are able to provide a crucial link between the government hospitals and clinics with the patients and their families at home, connecting them to doctors and nurses with are trained in palliative care.

In 2018, Ministry of Health Malaysia launched the National Palliative Care Policy and Strategic Plan 2019-2030, where palliative care will be extended to the community in phases through existing health clinics.

#### **Full Congress Report**

https://mhcc2024.com/15th-malaysian-hospice-council-congress-report/

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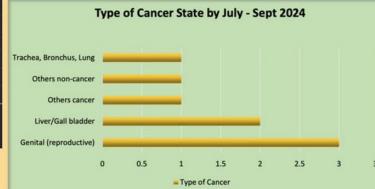




### SOCIETY IN GRAPHS



HOME CARE: Number of current patients and new registrations per month Jul - Sep 2024.





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