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**MEDIA STATEMENT BY DATO' SRI HASAN BIN ARIFIN, CHAIRPERSON OF THE
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC) ON PAC WORK VISIT TO SULTANAH
NORA ISMAIL HOSPITAL (HSNI), BATU PAHAT, JOHOR.**

- 1) PAC has held a work visit to Sultanah Nora Ismail Hospital (HSNI), Batu Pahat to see for themselves on the project to upgrade HSNI as reported in the Auditor-General's Report Year 2014 Series 3.
- 2) This visit is an extension from PAC Proceedings Meeting with the Ministry of Health (MOH) as well as Ministry of Works (KKR) on 19 April 2017 on related issues that was attended by Datuk Seri Chen Chaw Min, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health (MOH).
- 3) In today's visit, PAC also invited the state PAC of Johor, represented by two state PAC members, namely, Hon. Lau Chin Hoon and Hon. Abdul Razak Minhat.
- 4) Also attending, Datuk Seri Chaw Chin Min; Datuk Mohd Shafiq Abdullah, Deputy Secretary General's (Finance) from Ministry of Health; Datuk Abdul Razak Jaafar, KKR Deputy Secretary General (Policy & Development) and Kamaluddin Bin Abdul Rashid, KKR Deputy Director-General (Building Sector) as well as Datuk Roosme Hamzah, The Secretary of the House of Representatives as well as PAC Secretary.
- 5) The visit revolves around Lobby Lift, Level 1, Block B; Level 6, Block B; Level 3 High Dependency Ward; Level 3, Operation Theatre; Level 1 Imaging and Diagnostic (MRI) Department and Lower Ground (Parking Area).
- 6) The overall cost of this HSNI upgrade project is worth RM200.7 million, commencing in 2008 and submitted to MOH in 2012.
- 7) Though this project is a little delayed, PAC is satisfied with the improvements taken by MOH and KKR by ensuring the facilities provided in this upgrade can be fully utilized and operated for the benefit of HSNI patients.
- 8) In the meantime, PAC also recommended the Government, particularly KKR, MOH and MoF to ensure only truly qualified contractors in terms of experience, technicalities, and finance are eligible for hospital construction tenders throughout the country.

- 9) 'Pre-qualifications' for contractors to build hospitals are essentials in ensuring that no hospital projects have problems with construction delays and problematic when used by the community.
- 10) Apart from that, the Government, particularly KKR needs to take serious actions towards consultants involved in hospital constructions if the project is in trouble especially regarding delay in construction by blacklisting the consultants.
- 11) PAC was informed that there are up to eight hospitals nationwide which are currently under construction and should be given detailed monitoring by all parties especially KKR and KKM in ensuring that there are no more problematic hospital projects.
- 12) PAC does not want the Government's intention in providing the best medical facilities to the people be stunted by the failure in selecting the qualified contractors which will result to a bad image towards the Government.

Hon. Dato' Sri Hasan Arifin
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