

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF IMU COMMUNITY CENTRE

SPEECH FOR YB TERESA KOK

SEPUTEH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

6 September 2015, IMU Community Centre, Plaza Salak Park, Kuala Lumpur

Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to first take this opportunity to thank International Medical University (IMU) for inviting me to officially launch the IMU Community Centre here at Plaza Salak Park. It gives me great pleasure to see such a warm reception at this auspicious occasion.

This Community Centre marks another significant contribution to the society by IMU. Its uniqueness, as shared by Prof Winnie, is the integration of western medicine and traditional and complementary medicine under one roof. Through its integrated services, the community will be able to gain access to chiropractic and Chinese Medicine treatments as well as individualised nutrition and dietary counselling.

The availability of these quality healthcare services at this Centre is timely and crucial with the projected population growth of approximately 465,000 people by year 2020, an increase of 46% from 318,000 people (year 2005), just within the Bukit Jalil – Seputeh strategic zone.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Traditional medicine practice has long existed in our country and has always been part of our cultural heritage and belief system. To date, complementary medicine is growing in popularity and practiced worldwide, not only in Asian countries but also in developed countries such as United States of America, United Kingdom and Australia.

In Malaysia, however, there have been many misconceptions and unregulated methods of treatments that caused complications or undesired results. In view of this and in order to ensure public safety and regulated professional practices, Malaysia has taken a positive and proactive approach by gazetting the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act (T&CM) in February 2013. This Act also aims for both modern medicine and T&CM to co-exist towards enhancing the health and quality of life of Malaysians through recognised qualifications and trainings.

In this aspect, I am pleased to note that IMU is one of the dynamic private medical university that promotes the co-existence of modern and complementary medicine as it is one of the five private higher institutions that provides recognised quality education and professional graduates to serve in this field.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sedentary or stressful lifestyle trends have become more apparent and contribute to the increase of prevalent diseases and chronic conditions. This will eventually impair productivity causing a chain reaction in the socio economics of the individual, their families and society.

Needless to say, the government has been proactively promoting various initiatives to create greater awareness of these rising issues among Malaysians, however, it is also important for society to take a proactive role in managing their wellbeing with well informed decisions and evidence based solutions.

In this context, I would like to urge the community and Malaysians to actively take charge of their health and make a change to improve the quality of their wellbeing. By getting the right consultation and understanding how to manage their dietary needs while enjoying good food and keeping a healthy lifestyle, I am sure as a nation, we can reduce the rising percentage of obesity or even chronic diseases in the country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is heartening to know that the IMU Community Centre is also actively supporting the community by providing its services at a nominal fee. Through its IMU Cares programme and supported by the Khazanah IHH Healthcare Fund, less-privileged communities will be able to seek further treatments at a subsidized fee.

With this support, it is my fervent hope that the community will empower themselves and make full use of the facilities and services at the IMU Community Centre to manage and improve their wellbeing. We will also look forward to more comprehensive services at the Centre as the needs of the community grows.

I would like to request our media friends to spread the word on this admirable effort by IMU in providing quality and evidence based healthcare services for the community.

Now, it gives me great pleasure to declare the IMU Community Centre here at Plaza Salak Park open.

Thank you.