

SPEECH BY DATUK DR RIDZWAN BAKAR, CHAIRMAN OF PANTAI MEDICAL CENTRE IN CONJUNCTION WITH MMA FOUNDATION RADIOLOGY FUND & COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY'S PINK OCTOBER 2002 – INTERNATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

A very good morning,

Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Leo Moggie
Minister of Energy, Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia

Yang Berusaha Dr P Sathyamoorthy
President, College of Radiology, Academy of Medicine

Yang Berusaha Dr N Arumugam
Chairman of MMA Foundation Radiology Fund

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Datuk Seri Dr. Hajah Aishah Ghani
Director, Meditel

Hj. Kalamhamidi Abu Bakar
CEO, Pantai Medical Centre

Consultants, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to be venue host for the MMA Foundation Radiology Fund & College of Radiology's launch of the Pink October and the Subsidised Mammogram Programme 2002. I warmly welcome all to Pantai Medical Centre.

Today's launch is in conjunction with the International Breast Cancer Awareness Month of October.

Breast cancer as we all know is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths amongst women in the world and in Malaysia as well. As the exact cause of breast cancer is yet unknown, the good news about breast cancer is that the disease responds extremely well to early detection and treatment. Therefore our strong support for early detection activities to catch breast cancer at an early stage.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pantai Medical Centre has set up a Breast Care Centre at the Women and Children Centre. The centre provides a number of comprehensive breast care services conveniently located in one facility. The services include education, detection, treatment and emotional support to women with benign and malignant diseases of the breast. The services incorporate various programmes which encourage women of all ages to understand better the arts and sciences of breast care and the methods of Self Breast Examination (SBE). The Self Breast Examination Programme is offered **free** to the public.

In recent weeks, private hospitals have come under criticism for being expensive. The reality, of course, is that, contrary to present opinion, private hospitals do not rake in enormous profits. It is not realised that there are several social and welfare contributions that are being made by private hospitals nationwide.

I am glad that today PMC can contribute in a small way towards this excellent screening programme by launching the Subsidised Mammogram Programme 2002 in collaboration with the College of Radiology.

For Pink October, we are pleased to announce that Pantai Medical Centre is also reaching out to the public with Self-breast examination booths in various locations of the Klang Valley throughout the pink month to create better awareness on breast cancer.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Leo Moggie for sparing his valuable time to officiate the launch of Pink October and Subsidised Mammogram Programme this year via the Net.

On behalf of Pantai Medical Centre, I would like to reiterate our strong support of activities such as that organised by the MMA Foundation Radiology Fund & College of Radiology & their supporters/sponsors, because **WE at PANTAI MEDICAL CENTRE also** believe that “**EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES**”. ***Together we can make a difference!***

Thank you.