

## [The Star Online](#) > Focus

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Treatment room in bad state

RECENTLY I accompanied my mother to Hospital Sultanah Aminah in Johor Baru for her laser treatment. After finishing the initial procedures, we were told to go to the room where the equipment was placed.

To my surprise, the room didn't look like a place where treatment is offered. It appeared to be a storage facility for obsolete equipment. In fact, there were no comfortable chairs for patients who need to go through the treatment for almost 40 minutes.

I was quite sympathetic towards the poor specialist attending to my mother. She was struggling to set up the equipment alone. It made me wonder why these overworked government specialists were not provided assistants to help them in complicated treatment procedures.

The whole episode, which took place in a hospital that was supposedly the busiest and biggest in the state, left me feeling cynical about our healthcare sector.

At one end we spend billions of ringgit to build high-tech medical centres while at another end our existing hospitals are operating with minimum standards in terms of services, facilities and premises.

When we have policies which support building first world facilities, why do we still need to tolerate poor standards, especially in crucial areas such as healthcare? What are the relevant authorities doing to address these obvious disparities which exist in our public service sector?

We definitely need more than policies and plans written on paper. We need will power from the concerned ministries and departments to take proactive measures and exert change so that the *rakyat* can enjoy the fruits of development.

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**Rawang.**