

NUBE: SOCSO should set up own hospitals

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KUALA LUMPUR: The National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE) is urging the Human Resources Ministry to acquire or build hospitals to cater to the medical needs of Socso contributors, beyond employment.

Its General Secretary, J Solomon, said in a statement it is time Socso established and maintained hospitals and dialysis centres.

The Employees' Social Security Act 1969 has provisions for Socso to establish and maintain such medical facilities, he added.

"This will inevitably reduce the medical costs incurred by private sector workers, especially retirees who suffer the brunt of high medical cost," he said.

"By running such facilities, Socso can help ease the financial burden of private sector workers. This is a far better option than the government merely changing the mode of the payment of workers' personal contributions to EPF," added Solomon.

Socso, which donates dialysis machines annually, contributed 23 dialysis machines worth RM876,000 to 15 private sector organizations in the country in 2006.