



Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor (centre) with a mock cheque for **RM4 million** from **Cepatwawasan Group Berhad** at a handover ceremony in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. **Bernama pic**

UM to have Parkinson's centre

CRUCIAL: RM10m facility first of its kind in SE Asia

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A PARKINSON'S and Related Diseases Centre of Excellence, which is expected to be operational by next year, will be set up by Universiti Malaya (UM) at its campus in Petaling Jaya.

Vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Amin Jalaludin said the centre, costing RM10 million, would be the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

He said a building, which could cater to between 2,000 and 3,000 patients annually, would be constructed near University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC).

Dr Amin said the setting up of the centre was crucial as the number of senior citizens was expected to increase, making up for 20 per cent of the population

by year 2020.

"As the nation heads towards a growing geriatric population, the centre will house neurologists, who will diagnose and treat those with Parkinson's disease, as well as to research the disease's causes," he said after attending a mock cheque handover ceremony for the centre here yesterday.

The event was held to mark a donation made by Cepatwawasan Group Berhad, which contributed RM4 million to the centre's development.

Present were the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, and Cepatwawasan Group and MHC Plantations Berhad chairman Datuk Seri Mah King Thian.

Dr Amin said Cepatwawasan Group had selected UM as the recipient of the fund because it had high-calibre neurologists and neurosurgeons.

He said about 100,000 people in the country were diagnosed with Parkinson's, a disorder of the nervous system.

Dr Amin said the disease could be caused by numerous factors, including genetic make-up and lifestyle.