



05 DEC, 2025

TNB uplifts caregivers with Better Brighter Dormitory
IJNF-TNB

The Sun, Malaysia



BY AMEEN HAZIZI

WHEN his young child needed heart surgery at National Heart Institute (IJN), 28-year-old Mohd Fakhruallah Zaharudin left Cukai, Terengganu and came to Kuala Lumpur without hesitation.

As a labourer supporting a young family, he knew staying in the city for days or weeks would be expensive, yet going home was never an option.

"My child had heart surgery at IJN and I stayed at the Better Brighter Dormitory for two weeks. It has been a very good experience here. The facilities are well kept, organised and peaceful," he said.

For parents like him, the Better Brighter Dormitory operated by IJN Foundation (IJNF) in partnership with Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) offers something deeply important. It turns what could have been a stressful search for affordable accommodation into a safe and steady place to rest while staying close to a loved one receiving treatment.

"Every area is properly maintained and the environment feels reassuring, almost like being in my own home. This support helps financially and gives peace of mind and emotional strength," Fakhruallah said.

Another parent with the same struggle

His experience reflects that of Nurhan Abdullah, 31, from Semporna, Sabah. Nurhan works as a labourer earning RM600 to RM700 a month by helping villagers harvest palm oil fruits, and as the sole provider for six children, the cost of accommodation in Kuala Lumpur would have been impossible.

"This dormitory has helped me throughout my child's treatment at IJN. It is near the hospital, which makes it easy to go back and forth to the ward every day," he said.

Nurhan has been staying at the dormitory since Oct 17 to support his child through major cardiac procedure. With limited income and a large family back home relying on him, the relief was significant.

"I am very thankful to TNB and IJNF because I do not need to spend money on a place to stay throughout my child's treatment," he said.

A daughter supporting her father

For Nurul Fatiha Sulaiman, 28, a supervisor from Muar, Johor, the Better Brighter Dormitory eased the pressure of supporting her father as he awaited treatment in IJN's NIC unit. She had been at IJN for five days when doctors informed her that her father would need a bypass operation after three major arteries were found to be blocked.

With hotel rooms costing more than RM100 a night and transport expenses mounting, the affordability of the dormitory lifted a significant burden.

"The low cost here really helps from a financial point of view because it is affordable for families who are already under pressure," she said.

She expressed hopes for more families to have access to similar spaces.

"I hope TNB and IJN can expand this facility and add more rooms because it is always full and many families need a place like this," she said.

A space to rest, recover and stay close

The Better Brighter Dormitory IJNF-TNB was established to support



Fakhruallah is welcomed at the Better Brighter Dormitory IJNF-TNB reception counter, where staff assist families in securing safe accommodation close to IJN.



Fatiha is among the family members who help keep the dormitory clean and well-maintained during their stay. The women's dormitory is also closely monitored to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all occupants.

TNB uplifts caregivers with Better Brighter Dormitory IJNF-TNB

➤ Safe haven at IJN that eases emotional, financial strain



In practice, the dormitory is a modest building near IJN's wards, where families cook side by side, fold laundry together and share quiet conversations between visiting hours. It is a space where parents regain strength before returning to the ward, and where strangers often become a small support community.



Families of patients who wish to benefit from the Better Brighter Shelter facilities may obtain further information from their respective hospitals or from IJN.

Keeping families close when they are needed most

The partnership between IJNF and TNB began in 2017 with a clear purpose: to give families of heart patients a safe, clean and affordable accommodation option during one of the most difficult periods of their lives.

"The main role of the Better Brighter Dormitory is to provide temporary accommodation for caregivers of patients receiving treatment at IJN, and it allows family members who come from far away to stay close to their loved ones during treatment, without worrying about logistics and high accommodation costs," said IJN deputy CEO and IJNF trustee Datuk Akmal Arief Mohamed Fauzi.

Priority is given to families of patients in critical care units, those travelling from outside the Klang Valley and B40 households who

cannot afford hotels nearby. Applications are made through the ward and verified before check in. Rates are deliberately kept minimal and fees may be waived for families who need long term stays or who are unable to pay.

Beyond physical comfort, Akmal highlighted the emotional importance of the space.

"The dormitory gives families a social and emotional support space so they can be close to the patient, offer encouragement and prayers, and protect their mental and emotional wellbeing," Akmal explained.

Daily operations at the dormitory are handled by an experienced external operator appointed by IJNF. This team oversees cleanliness, linen management and safety, with regular monitoring to maintain standards across all shared areas.

Supporting Malaysian families

Through its corporate responsibility contributions, TNB ensures that families who must travel for treatment do not face these challenges alone, while the IJNF identifies those most in need and maintains a space that is welcoming, accessible and dignified.

In practice, this means a modest building close to IJN's wards where families prepare meals side by side, fold laundry together or share quiet conversations between visiting hours. It is a space where parents gather strength before returning to the ward and where strangers often become a small support community.

For caregivers such as Fakhruallah, Nurhan and Fatiha, the dormitory is more than a temporary accommodation. It is a source of stability, relief and reassurance during a time filled with uncertainty.

TNB Better Brighter Shelter

Programme overview

TNB Better Brighter Shelter Programme provides temporary accommodation for families of patients receiving treatment at government hospitals. The programme includes:

➤ **Better Brighter Anjung Kasih YKN-TNB** facilities at selected government hospitals nationwide, established with Yayasan Kebajikan Negara (YKN) and the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development.

➤ **Better Brighter Dormitory IJNF-TNB**, which supports families of heart patients undergoing treatment at IJN.

Since 2017, TNB has channelled over RM6.4 million into upgrading, equipping, maintaining and operating four Better Brighter Shelter facilities at IJN, Hospital Serdang, Hospital Melaka and Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II in Kota Bharu. TNB has also supported upgrades and equipment for Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah in Kuala Terengganu.

More than 6,000 families benefit from these facilities each year. By providing safe, comfortable and reliable accommodation, the programme helps families stay close to their loved ones during critical medical periods without shouldering excessive financial or emotional strain.