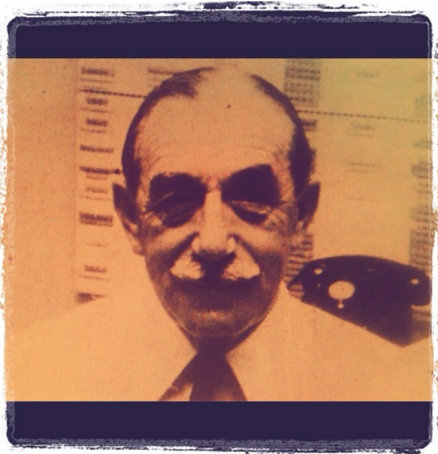


# Healthcare Pioneers: Pehin Dato Philip I. Franks



Pehin Dato Philip I. Franks graduated from St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, London in 1930. After working for four years in London, he joined the Indian Medical Service in 1934 where he worked until 1947. He later worked in Malaya as an eye specialist before coming to Brunei on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1961 as Brunei's first eye specialist (State Ophthalmologist).

Two years after joining the service, Pehin Dato Franks was offered and accepted the post of State Medical Officer (Director of Medical and Health Services). After becoming the Director, he later was succeeded as State Ophthalmologist by Pehin Joshi. Under Pehin Dato Franks' leadership, there was significant progress in the healthcare service and these included the introduction of the Flying Doctor Service in 1965, proliferation of specialist posts, building of new hospitals (Kuala Belait, Tutong and overseeing of the initial phase of the construction of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital), expansion of the Brunei General Hospital and revitalising of the lagging malarial and cholera eradication programmes. The Flying Doctor Service brought

modern equipment and healthcare to the rural kampongs (villages) previously completely isolated for long periods. Incredibly, during his tenure, cornea transplantations were carried out in the Brunei General Hospital with donor corneas obtained from Sri Lanka.

Pehin Dato Franks became Dato in 1964 and was later bestowed the title of Pehin Orang Kaya Tabib Laila Di-Raja Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa in 1970 for his services to the country. After working for nearly a quarter of a century in the East, including 21 years in Brunei, Pehin Dato Franks retired from the service on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1982, just more than two years before the official opening of RIPAS Hospital. He returned to live in South Cumbria, England. Pehin Dato Franks was succeeded as Director of Medical and Health Services by his deputy for the previous eight years, Dato Dr Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Noordin. Pehin Dato Franks remained the longest serving Director of Medical and Health Services of Brunei Darussalam for 19 years.