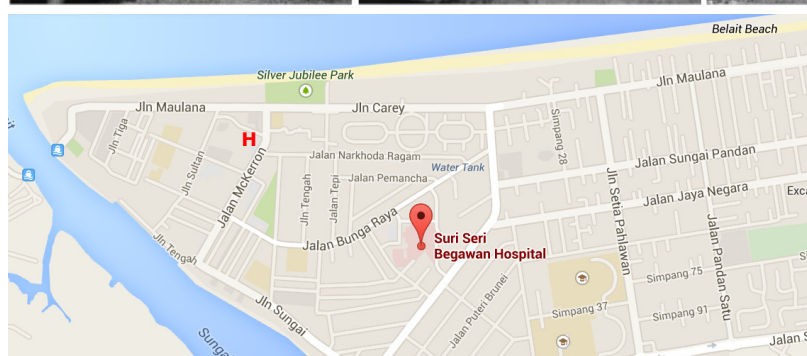


Healthcare in Brunei Darussalam: *Rumah Sakit Kerajaan Pekan Belait/ Belait Government Hospital*



Pictures of the hospital complex: One of the ward for inpatient (Top left) older part of the complex (building with thatched roofs), Part of the Women outpatient clinic (Top middle), and part of the radiology (X-ray) unit (Top right), newer part of the complex with low cement stilts and zinc roofs.

Bottom: Map showing the location of the hospital (Rumah Sakit Kerajaan Pekan Belait **H**) in relation to the current Suri Seri Begawan Hospital (Google Map).

Kuala Belait is the largest of the four district, but the second largest population. The district is served by the Suri Seri Begawan Hospital (SSBH). Prior to this, healthcare services were provided by the Belait Government Hospital or '*Rumah Sakit Kerajaan Pekan Belait*'. This hospital was located along Jalan McKerron, one of the main roads leading to the town centre. This hospital was built in the 1960s to replace the first hospital built in the district (1932), which had survived the Second World War.

This hospital was constructed of wood and cements, following the trend at that time. The overall look of the complex was different with some buildings that had been built later having zinc roofs while the earlier ones had thatched roofs. Most of the buildings were on low cement stilts. At the maximum, the hospital had up to 75 beds; wards for men, women, children and maternity cares. As in the other districts, the hospital also functioned as

a healthcare centre. Services included inpatient care, outpatient medical and surgical clinics, laboratory, radiology and an operating theatre. There were three to four medical officers working within the premises, assisted by a dresser, few nurses and other hospital personnel. At any one shift, there were only three nurses looking after all the wards. Duties carried out by the nurses were challenging, incorporating different types of responsibilities that are now shared and shouldered by attendants or amahs. A specialist surgeon (Dato T Panch, 1967-1986) was stationed in Kuala Belait when surgical facilities were both enhanced. Female patient clinics was in the care of lady Medical Officers.

This hospital, together with the Panaga Hospital (Brunei Shell Petroleum) provided health care services to the people of Kuala Belait. Plan was also in placed to build a replacement hospital (SSBH) in 1967 and *Rumah Sakit Kerajaan Pekan Belait* was closed on the 28th October 1972.