

## **Biggest Medical Fitness Centre Inaugurated in Dubai**

**23 December 2008**

DUBAI - A new medical fitness centre, the biggest yet in Dubai, opened in Al Muhaisnah on Monday.

With a capacity to accommodate up to 5,000 people, the new centre was inaugurated by Shaikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance .

Every person requiring a work or residence permit in the UAE needs to undergo a medical fitness test for diseases such as Hepatitis B, HIV, Syphilis, Tuberculosis and Leprosy.

"The need for a new and bigger centre was much overdue because of the increasing number of people wishing to take up residency in the country," said Qadhi Saeed Al Murooshi, the Director General of Dubai Health Authority.

By January, all services will gradually be shifted from Al Maktoum Hospital to the new state-of-the-art building, which is currently on a pilot run to test the equipment.

The Dh25 million centre has a waiting hall with a capacity of 500, registration section with 13 counters, radiography section with five modern digital machines, pathology section, a preventive medicine clinic, vaccination room, residential facility with 60 rooms to isolate those with infectious diseases, a typing centre, naturalisation and residency section, and a mortuary.

The Director of Medical Fitness Section at Department of Health and Medical Fitness (Dohms), Maisa Al Bustani, said that 60 staff would be working round-the-clock on three shifts.

"We expect to receive at least 3,000 applications per day at the centre," said Maisa. Currently, Dohms carries out 50,000 tests per year at all its centres while 6,000 vaccines are administered daily.

Other medical fitness centres include those in Dubai International Financial Centre and Safa (VIP centres), Satwa, Jebel Ali, Al Mankhool, Al Twar and Al Khawaneej.

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