

“But sir, we do not have the ambulance.” This was the reply given by many members to the management of SJAM Penang way back in the late 2004 when we were asked to start the emergency ambulance service, EMAS Penang.

This was the dream for me and many of my “SJAM-blood group” friends to have SJAM Penang starting the emergency ambulance service. But would our dreams remain as dream, or would the dream turn reality? We were having insufficient fund, no vehicle, no structural base but we wanted to start the service which are about 10 to 15 km away from the then newly built headquarters. Hardware, the biggest hurdle that we have then.

With the shared dream, a committee was formed. We met almost every fortnight in year 2005. The size of the committee was growing. Many non uniform members and public joined us. It was very unusual for us. It was a very 1st time where a SJAM event, but non SJAM members joined the committee.

Meetings after meetings, press releases after press releases, awareness campaigns after awareness campaigns... towards mid of the year, we saw our results. We got some funds to roll the ball. We have our soft launch on 17th December 2005. We started our 1st ever service on the Christmas Eve of 2005 with a borrowed ambulance from SJAM Wilayah Persekutuan. We were based at one of the classrooms in SJK Min Sin, Jalan Tun Dr Awang. Many thanks to the school.

Every weekends, eves of public holiday, without fail, the operational volunteers would stay overnight in the school. Meetings were held before the operation start. It was our routine then. As a new player in the industry, we strive to serve better with our limited resources. The committee members doubled the efforts to raise fund. We identified a place for our base, that is Jalan Tengah. With the help from the public and some corporate, we raised fund to build the base.



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