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Educating the public on liver disease

TO spread the message on the importance of caring for the liver, the nine-month-old Malaysian Liver Foundation has initiated a public education programme on the prevention and treatment of liver disease.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is the patron of the foundation which was formed last April.

To fund the education programme, a project called "Cookies for Charity" is being organised by a group of community-conscious volunteers headed by Diana Low, an advertising executive.

Among the volunteers are fund manager Low Ee Keong, City Square staff Zarina Idris, project manager Louisa Long and real estate agent Nigel Ng.

"Although we are all from different backgrounds, we have one clear objective - to work for a cause by raising funds for the foundation," Low said.

She said there had been good response to past public campaigns held in shopping malls, community halls, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and factories.

The hepatitis virus has accounted for 90 per cent of liver cancer in the country, not to mention other liver diseases like gallstones, cirrhosis and fatty liver.

About 2.5 million people in the country are believed to be viral hepatitis carriers and most of them are not even aware of it.

As such, they risk passing it to others, especially family members.

"We hope to raise RM200,000 through Cookies for Charity to conduct the public awareness campaign," Low said.

Priced at RM15 a box and RM100 a hamper, the proceeds from the sale would go to MLF to conduct the campaign.

The fund-raisers had already sent appeal letters to shopping complexes, companies and individuals to help in the sale of the cookies.

For enquiries or order forms, call 03-2525262, 2722712 or fax 03-2530900.

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