

06 JAN 2000

Suleiman-Organ

DEPUTY MINISTER PLEDGES ORGANS, URGES OTHERS TO DO THE SAME

PETALING JAYA, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Suleiman Mohamed today pledged his organs and urged other "caring Malaysians" to do the same.

"I will let them take whatever organs from my body for those in need," he said at the Guinness Effort Award presentation, here.

Suleiman hoped that more Malaysians would come forward and pledge their organs.

About 16,000 people have pledged their organs since the launch of the National Organ Donor Card campaign in December 1997.

About 79 per cent of them are below 41 years old.

The National Transplant Resource Centre had also received many enquiries and had distributed 50,000 brochures on the National Organ Donor Card within three months of its launch.

Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng, who himself had pledged his organs, had said that the number in need of organ transplant was still high in the country, with an annual requirement of about 1,200 kidneys, 700 corneas, 450 hearts and 400 livers per year.

Suleiman also urged the people to donate blood in view of the shortage in many government hospitals.

"Although there has been encouraging response from the public, the demand for blood is still very high," he said.

On politics, Suleiman who is the Federal Territory Umno chief said all the 11 divisions in Kuala Lumpur and Labuan supported the Umno supreme council's decision calling for a no contest for the presidency and deputy presidency.

"We want Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to be retained as party president and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to be nominated for the deputy president's post," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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