

13/08/2004

Fund-raising dinner for thalassaemia patients

ALTHOUGH cancer and heart attacks are high on the list of deadly diseases in Malaysia, others like thalassaemia should not be ignored.

Thalassaemia is a form of illness where the affected individuals cannot synthesise haemoglobin properly. They produce small, pale, short-lived red blood cells.

When Anita Sarawak discussed the topic at her talk show Bersama Anita on Astro not too long ago, she helped highlight the plight of thalassaemia patients.

"Thalassaemia is a hereditary disease. The cost of treatment is high and a patient often needs further medical treatment. As the patients are from different backgrounds, not everyone can afford treatment," said Malaysian Thalassaemia Association vice-president Shahrul Anuar Hassan.

Hence, together with the Association of Bumiputera Women Entrepreneurs Malaysia Kepong branch (Usahanita) and Anita Sarawak, a charity fund-raising dinner will be held on Sept 11 at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Usahanita is the main organiser of this event and hopes to raise RM500,000 from the "Bantulah Tabung Pesakit Kronik Dan Thalassaemia Bersama Anita Sarawak" dinner.

"This is going to be the biggest charity event we've ever organised. We wanted to do something for the patients after watching the show. I also wish to express our sincere gratitude to Tengku Puteri Lela Wangsa Tan Sri Tengku Meriam Sultan Ahmad Shah for being the patron of this event," said Usahanita organising chairman Suriati Abd Rahman.

Suriati added that the funds raised would be channelled to the Thalassaemia Welfare Body (Berkat), Tengku Ampuan Afzan Institute Fund (Intaz) as well as for Muhamad Nabil, a four-year old who needs RM20,000 for treatment.

Meanwhile, Anita promised to give a "heart and soul" performance.

"I'm eternally grateful to God for giving me good health. When Abang Mahathir and I decided to come back to Malaysia, my intention was not to find wealth or stardom, but to give back to society in any way I could."

Tickets for the show can be purchased by calling these numbers: Usahanita Kepong Branch (03-67334025), Suriati (012-3086620), Zalina Hassan (012-2801394), Zuraniyati Zakaria (019-2618607), or fax to 03-67334029.

(END)