

PM: We need to provide the best treatment

The Star - 10/11/2007

PUTRAJAYA: An institute for treating cancer patients is finally a reality.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the RM340mil centre was for the people.

"In a way it has special meaning to me but this is not exclusively for me or my feelings," he told newsmen.

"This is about what the *rakyat* wants. The number of people suffering from cancer is increasing, so we need to provide the best treatment."

Abdullah lost his wife Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood to breast cancer in October 2005.

He said many feared cancer and for those afflicted, they felt that it was a death sentence.

"If we get treatment at the early stage, we can still lead normal lives. What is important is that we need to understand cancer. And for those who have a family member who has cancer, we need to support them just like what I did for my wife who suffered for five years," he added.

The prime minister also directed the Health Ministry to start hiring medical personnel and identifying the latest equipment to treat cancer.

"While waiting for the project to be completed in 30 months, we need proper planning for everything to be in place.

"Medical personnel must be sent for training and equipment ordered. I don't want to hear criticism of the Government buying obsolete equipment or we don't have sufficient experts," Abdullah said.