

# Law to protect elderly in the works

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Protection for the elderly will soon be mandatory under the law.

Provisions under the new legislation will be based on the findings of a research currently undertaken by Universiti Malaya.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said various factors will be taken into consideration before the legislation is passed.

"We realise that there are many different categories of people among the elderly," she said.

"There are those who are motivated to do a lot of things but there also are others who do

not have the strength to engage in any task."

Wan Azizah said the government would have to cater to the needs of everyone before the legislation is passed.

Official data shows that there are about three million Malaysians categorised as "elderly".

She was speaking at the launch of an e-donation drive called "Enabling a cashless and socially responsible society" on Saturday.

The e-donation feature, launched by Boost, is an app that enables users to donate to non-governmental organisations using their smartphones.

Wan Azizah, who is also Women, Family and Community Development minister, said, the government is studying the time-banking

system practised in Scandinavian countries to ascertain if it can be implemented in Malaysia.

The reciprocity-based system, which uses people's time and talent as currency, has been successful at addressing needs such as childcare for minorities, single parents and the unemployed.

Earlier, Wan Azizah said Malaysians should not just wait for special occasions to lend a helping hand.

"We should strive to help others and that does not always mean giving money.

"Reading to the blind, giving tuition to poor students and spending time with those in old folks homes are all part of giving back to society," she said.