

Government To Improve Service System For Dialysis Treatment
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the government is committed in helping kidney patients through the granting of subsidy for haemodialysis treatment and the 'capital grant' for the purchase of the haemodialysis machine.

He said a total of RM171.1 million was allocated by the government in the form of subsidy for haemodialysis treatment to non-governmental organisations in the 10-year period from 2001-2010 while a capital grant of RM20.15 million was given to dialysis centres for the purchase of new haemodialysis machines.

"It is estimated that 23,390 patients had benefited from the government initiative and this reflects the strong commitment to assist the needy kidney patients," he said when launching the World Kidney Day Celebration 2012, here today.

Also present were Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Deputy Health Minister Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin, Director-General of the Islamic Development Department (Jakim) Datuk Othman Mustapha, Chairman of the Action Committee on Public Awareness on Organ Donation Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, and president of the Board of Directors of the National Kidney Foundation Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohamad Zaher.

Muhyiddin said organ transplant could also be carried out besides dialysis to treat patients suffering from kidney failure as well as other organs.

"It is estimated that 15,078 patients are waiting to receive organs and 15,055 of them are kidney patients.

"Other patients waiting for organ transplants include 18 who are suffering from liver failure and eight patients suffering from heart and lung ailments ," he said.

Meanwhile, Liow felt that the rate of organ donation in Malaysia was still low as only 0.6 per cent or 188,147 Malaysians donated their organs.

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