

ORGAN TRANSPLANT

19,000 kidney patients waiting for transplants

KUALA LUMPUR: Kidney failure patients nationwide need to wait five to 10 years before they can undergo organ transplant.

National Kidney Foundation (NKF) head of public education Maznifah Fatah said the waiting period was long because only one per cent of the nation's 30 million population had pledged to donate their organs.

"This is because of the lack of public awareness on the importance of organ donation to help those in need," she said at an organ donation drive held at the Besraya Headquarters, Lok Yew Toll Plaza here today.

Maznifah said there were more than 19,000 kidney patients waiting for transplants, adding that many more were waiting for organ transplants, including heart (seven), liver (six) and lungs (six).

She said the Kidney Foundation was organising an awareness campaign to educate the public on the importance of organ donation.

Besraya (M) Sdn Bhd business unit head, Md Zohir Harun said the programme, conducted jointly with the NKF, was a show of support for the organ donation campaign.

"This is the second time this programme is being conducted here to encourage the public and our staff to become organ donors," he said.

Besraya employee, Khairunnisa Md Ismail, 30, said the programme made it easy for the staff to get information on organ donations.

Nor Arif Mustapah, 25, who patrols the Besraya highways, said the programme allowed them to have a medical check-up without having to go to a health centre.

Free health checks conducted during the programme included the kidneys, breasts, eyes and body weight.

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