



Captain H.S. Dharan (third from right) **looking at the certificate** awarded to Hazlina Helmi. Looking on the are vocational awards coordinator Goh Seng Chuan (fifth from left) and the other recipients. Pic by Rosela Ismail

Dialysis nurses honoured

TIRELESS: Five awarded the Rotary Club of Petaling Jaya's Selangor Vocational Service Award

ROBIN AUGUSTIN
KUALA LUMPUR
streets@nst.com.my

FOR more than 20 years, Siti Fatimah Basir, a nurse from the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) has been tirelessly caring for dialysis patients and her efforts have finally been acknowledged.

Fatimah was one of five dialysis nurses who were awarded with the Rotary Club of Petaling Jaya's Selangor Vocational Service Award at the Dorsett Grand Hotel here recently.

The other four were Sumathi Subramaniam and Hazlina Helmi from St

John's Ambulance Malaysia, Siti Zamidah Muhammad from MAA Medicare and Rosmah Mohd Said.

The three organisations manage a combined total of 56 dialysis centres in the state empowered by 300 nurses.

Every October, in conjunction with Rotary International's Vocational Month, the Rotary Club of Petaling Jaya honours different vocations.

Previously, exceptional postmen, firemen and even garbage collectors were celebrated for their outstanding service.

"There are 25,688 cases of kidney failure in the country and the number increases by nine to 10 per cent annually," said Rotary Club Petaling Jaya president Captain H.S. Dharan.

"The nurse-patient ratio is one to six," he said, adding that this disparity was why dialysis nurses were chosen to be honoured this year.

"Being a nurse requires a lot of sacrifice, we are doing this to acknowledge their efforts, so that they know they are appreciated," said Dharan.

The five nurses were selected after a process over a month which rated them based on feedback from supervisors and patients.

Their excellence was measured in various categories including the quality of their work, productivity, teamwork, interpersonal communication, job knowledge, attitude and more.

For their dedication and excellence, the nurses took home a certificate of appreciation and an Olympus VG-165 camera.

"I am so happy and proud.

"This is the first award I have ever received," said a beaming Siti Fatimah, adding that this award will motivate her to outdo herself at work.

"I love photography so the camera is the perfect gift," she added.

For Sumathi, the award came as a surprise.

"Even when I came here, I did not know I was chosen.

"It takes a lot of patience to be a nurse as some patients can be stubborn, so I am happy to receive this," she said.