



Latest in the market: VA Solutions Sdn Bhd managing director Fong Kam Foay (left) explaining to (from second left) Pulau Tikus assemblyman Koay Teng Hai, Chung, past district governor Kenneth Saw and Koh on how the machine works.

New centre for kidney patients

The needy can get treatment in inner George Town

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Photos by **GOH GAIK LEE**

THE poor and needy who live in the inner city of George Town in Penang and require dialysis treatment need not travel far as the Lions Club of George Town (LCGT) and the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) have set up a centre there.

LCGT Lions Kidney Dialysis Committee chairman Peter Chung Kean Beng said the RM1mil centre would have 14 machines to help 80 poor patients.

He said the centre would operate by the end of the year as a licence was needed from the Health Ministry once the machines were commissioned.

He said although the treatment was not free, it would be subsidised by NKF.

"The centre will be operated by NKF, which is currently operating 25 such centres nationwide," he told reporters after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between LCGT and NKF at the

centre at Jalan Bawasah in George Town recently.

The agreement was signed by LCGT president Anthony Lee Kin On and NKF northern branch vice-chairman Datuk Tan Gin Soon.

NKF administration manager Koh Kia Heong said although the cost per session was RM130, patients would be charged only RM100.

"Those who really cannot afford to pay RM100 can apply for a RM50 subsidy from the government.

"And for the hardcore poor, if they cannot afford the RM50 fee as well, they can apply to the NKF fund," he said, adding that treatment at private centres could cost between RM150 and RM250.

Lion Clubs district governor Choong Kwei Looi hoped that a similar centre would also be set up in Butterworth.

He said the Lions Club International Foundation had contributed US\$75,000 (RM263,000) to LCGT for the centre.

For details, call the centre at 04-2828701.



RM1mil project: The new dialysis centre at Jalan Bawasah is set up by the Lions Club of George Town and the National Kidney Foundation.



To help the poor: Lee (left) and Tan (right) exchanging documents after signing the MoU. Looking on are Choong (second left) and Koay.