

20,000 patients nationwide waiting for organ transplants

PETALING JAYA: Twenty thousand patients are waiting for organ transplants nationwide, said National Transplant Resource Centre chief clinical manager Datin Dr Fadhilah Zowyah Lela Yasin Mansor.

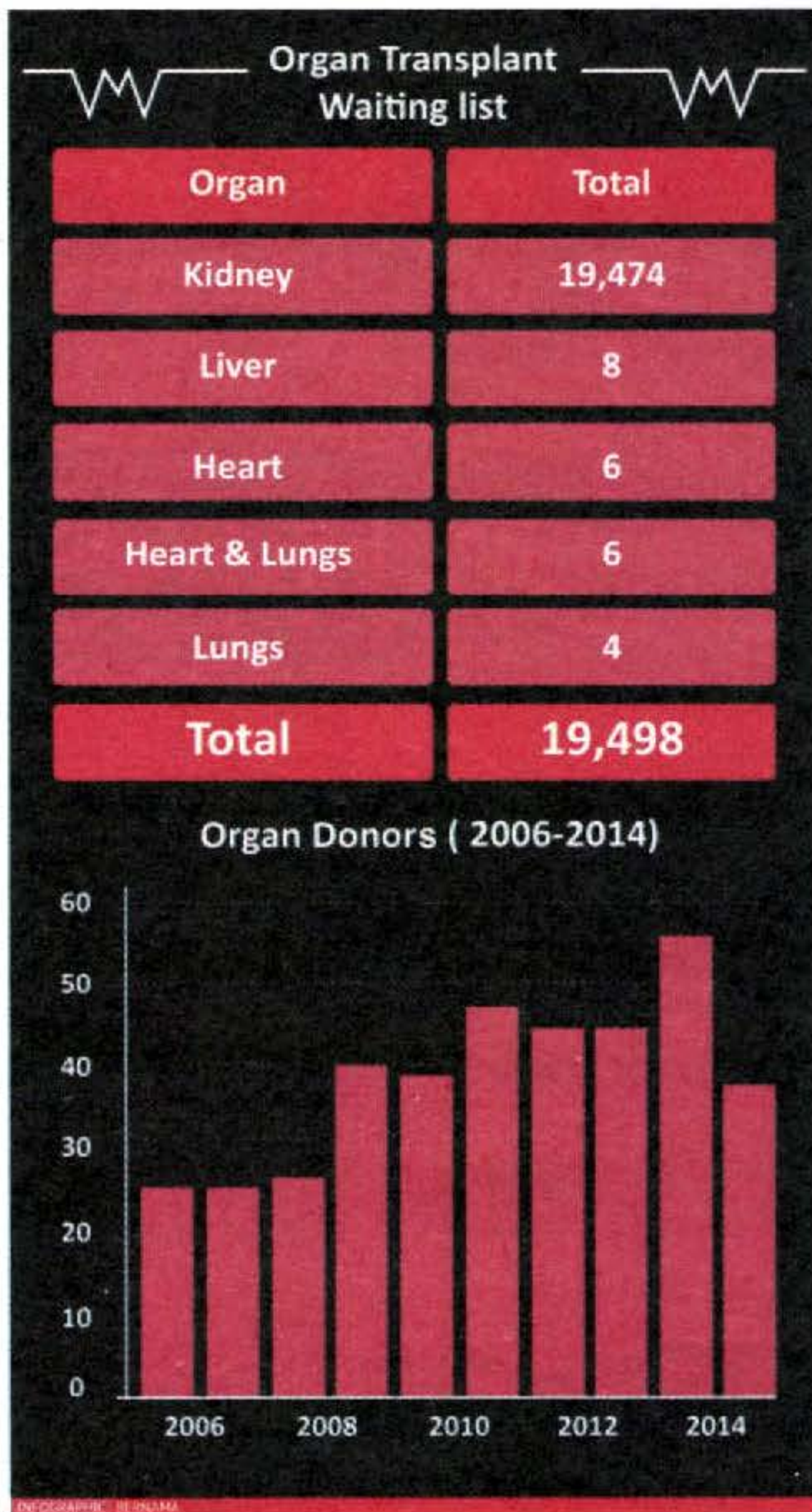
She said out of the total, kidney patients form the highest number with 19,474 people, followed by liver patients (eight), heart patients (six), heart and lung patients (six), and lung patients (four).

“Kidney patients recorded the highest number since they are still surviving by receiving scheduled dialysis treatment.

“The increase is due to eating habits, lifestyles and effects of medication intake not approved by the Health Ministry,” he said after launching the National Kidney Foundation social media website here on Wednesday.

He also invited all communities in the country, regardless of religious background, to register themselves as organ donor pledgers at <http://www.dermaorgan.gov.my/>.

“The number of Malay donors significantly increased, after 6,211 Malays or 45.92% of 13,524 people registered as organ donors for the first six months of this year.



“The figure had [grown] to 77,683 Malay donors out of the 303,254 who registered since the organ donation campaign was introduced in 1997,” said Fadhilah Zowyah.

She added that the statistics proved that public awareness, especially among the Malays, of organ donation had increased, showing that Muslim acceptance of organ donations had improved.

— *Bernama*