

Additional haemodialysis machines for better service

PETALING JAYA — With current limitations seeing haemodialysis machines being used past their life span, the announcement to replace and increase the number of such machines through corporate social responsibility is commendable, says the National Kidney Foundation.

"The lifespan of a machine is five to eight years, but due to certain limitations, some are used up to 10 to 12 years," said foundation (NKF) president Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohd Zaher.

He said the proposal to involve corporate sector in contributing dialysis machines to government hospitals and clinics would be more beneficial if dialysis centres were set up instead of being in vacant spaces.

Currently, there are an estimated 31,000 patients on dialysis while there are over

18,000 on the waiting list for kidney transplants.

It was announced yesterday the government would replace 635 haemodialysis machines in public hospitals and clinics.

The government would also provide space at such locations to have another 244 machines, which would be contributed by the private sector.

Medication for patients undergoing chronic and acute haemodialysis treatment would be provided with an allocation of RM45.4 million.

Tax relief for those with serious diseases such as cancer, kidney failure and heart attack is increased from RM5,000 to RM6,000 annually for the tax payer, spouse and children.

Many brands of medicine covering 30

types of ailments such as diabetes, stroke, cancer and fertility, have been exempted from the goods and services tax.

In the war against dengue, RM30 million has been allocated for dengue prevention programmes and purchasing dengue prevention equipment while 55,000 dengue test kits will be given free to private clinics for early dengue detection.

A total of RM23.3 billion for health services and facilities has been allocated including for two hospitals, 20 health clinics and an additional 30 1Malaysia clinics, with 30 doctors being stationed there.

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr H. Krishna Kumar said he welcomed the move to build more 1Malaysia clinics but expressed disappointed that allocation was given to only build two hospitals.