

By TRECIA TAN  
metro@thestar.com.my



# Giving back to society

## Oil giant donates dialysis machines to kidney foundation

**P**ETRONAS brought joy to underprivileged patients and members of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) through its *Sentuhan Kasih* community programme in conjunction with the festive season.

Four automated peritoneal dialysis (APD) and two haemodialysis machines were presented to NKF at an event organised by Petronas at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre recently.

"Since NKF centres do not provide peritoneal dialysis, we are generously contributing these machines to Hospital Sultan Ismail Johor Baru, Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan Kuantan, Hospital Pulau Pinang, and Hospital Umum Sarawak," said NKF vice-chairman Goh Seng Chuan.

The partnership between Petronas and NKF began in March 2009 when the NKF Children Dialysis Funds received RM200,000 from the Wives and Women Staff Association of Petronas (Petronita), said Goh.

Only a quarter of the funds were used due to the small number of children who were undergoing dialysis in government hospitals, he said, adding that NKF also focused more on dialysis treatment for adults.

"As such, the balance of the funds is being utilised today with the purchase of four APD machines," said Goh, adding that Petronita had agreed to donate another haemodialysis machine to Hospital Sultan Ismail Johor Baru.

The NKF Datuk Dr G.A. Sreenevasan PJ Dialysis Centre would also receive a new haemodialysis machine courtesy of Petronas, said Goh.

He was full of praise for the Petronas Young Professional Clubs (YPC) volunteers who cleaned and repainted the homes of five underprivileged kidney patients in Klang Valley recently.

Petronas also managed to collect RM45,000 through a fundraising campaign for NKF, he said.

"The support given by Petronas will certainly help our patients to ease their burden as well as give them a better quality of life."

"Our partnership with Petronas does not end today.

"We have plans with Petronas for the underserved areas in Malaysia and we will continue to work in the *Sentuhan Kasih* programme for all festivals," he said.

Launched in 2005, the *Sentuhan Kasih* programme is part of Petronas' corporate social responsibility initiative for the less fortunate.

The programme activities are held annu-



ally in conjunction with major festivals such as Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Deepavali, and Chinese New Year.

"This is a good programme. It gives hope to poor patients," said 23-year-old kidney patient Suresh Penerechelwan.

"It also helps raise awareness that even young people like me can get kidney disease and have to undergo dialysis," he said.

A total of 35 underprivileged kidney patients received *ang pow* from Petronita president Datin Sharifah Salwa Syed Kamaruddin at the event.

Also present were Social Welfare Department director-general Datuk Norani Mohd Hashim, Petronas group strategic communications senior general manager Norliza Kamaruddin, Petronita deputy presidents Datin Dr Azura Ahmad Tajuddin and Raiha Azni Abdul Rahman, and NKF board of directors member Datuk Shamsuddin Dubi.

There were traditional Chinese dance performances such as lion dance, the classical ribbon dance and long-sleeve dance, which managed to captivate the guests that day.

At the end of the event, guests were treated to a scrumptious eight-course meal.



**1** (From left) Shamsuddin, Norliza, Sharifah Salwa, (fourth from left), Norani (third from right) and Goh (right) tossing yee sang with guests and NKF representatives.

**2** A Chinese ribbon dance performance at the Petronas *Sentuhan Kasih* programme.