



Abdul Karim, along with (from left) Goh, Ikhwan and Tai, hands over the donation to Romawi.

Class of '77 Josephians aid ex-classmate with kidney ailment

KUCHING: Awang Romawi Awang Mais, a 59-year-old kidney patient, received special visitors on Tuesday in the person of Datuk Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports along with three former classmates of St Joseph's Class of 1977.

While there, they donated RM20,000 to Romawi to aid him in his kidney dialysis treatment at the **National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Dialysis Centre**.

According to Abdul Karim, Romawi is currently suffering from acute kidney failure, requiring him to undergo dialysis treatment there.

"He is our classmate in St Joseph's School back in 1977 and we've known him from Form 1 to Form 5.

"To see him receiving dialysis treatment for his kidney failure prompted us to do a fund-raising activity and we managed to collect RM20,000. Even our classmates who are currently working overseas chipped in for the donation.

"In conjunction with the month of Ramadan, we have donated the funds to aid him in his treatment and also to help him celebrate this coming Aidilfitri with joy," he said when met at the NKF Dialysis Centre after handing over the donation to Romawi.

Abdul Karim then remarked that despite differences in religion and race, he and his classmates were willing to help Romawi.

"The things that we did to ease Romawi's burden is a reflection of our society here in Sarawak.

"Our classmates, though of different religions and races, united to lend a helping hand to him."

Joining Abdul Karim during the visit were Raymond Goh Boon Phing, Ikhwan Zaidil and Stephen Tai.

According to Ikhwan, Romawi who was a sportsman had to leave his career due to his failing kidney and he had been receiving dialysis treatment there for six years.

Goh said that one of their classmates, Dr Dennis Kong, led the fund-raising activity.

"Dr Kong, who is an eye specialist at Jalan Mendu, is the prime mover of various activities done for our classmates of St Joseph's Class of 1977, including fund-raising activities for those in need," he noted.