

Sarikei to have additional haemodialysis centre

KUCHING: The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Malaysia will open an additional haemodialysis centre in Sarikei to accommodate the rising number of kidney patients in the area.

NKF chief executive officer Chua Hong Wee said, at the moment, some renovation works were done on the building.

“We will open another dialysis centre in Sarikei. The building is now undergoing some renovation works and it is expected to be completed in two to three months from now.

“At the same time, we are also waiting for approvals from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and some other agencies including Fire and Rescue Department to inspect the building for safe occupation, and then the occupation permit will follow suit,” said Chua when speaking at a press conference yesterday to welcome Minister of Welfare, Community Wellbeing, Women, Family and Childhood Development Dato Sri Fatimah Abdullah who was on a working visit to the National Kidney Foundation (NKFDC) – Kidney Association Sarawak (KAS)/Rotary dialysis centre here yesterday.

He said the reason for NKF to open another dialysis centre in Sarikei is because at the moment there is no such centre in the division except at the Sarikei hospital.

Apart from opening in Sarikei soon, Chua said another centre in Kota Samarahan is expected to be opened in a few months' time.

“NKF together with several other government agencies

and non-governmental organisations have opened dialysis centres in all states except for Negeri Sembilan and Melaka. Our focus is that, it is recommended that a state or an area open a dialysis centre especially in the state or an area which has so many commercial dialysis centres or treatment centres that only look for profit.

“Our current statistic is showing that around 1,700 kidney patients in Malaysia are seeking haemodialysis treatment,” he said.

Meanwhile, Chia said the NKF – Kidney Association of Sarawak/Rotary dialysis centre has been in operation since 2000 and is equipped with 18 haemodialysis machines and attending to 102 patients.

The centre, he added, is under the responsibility of nephrology specialist Dr Clare Tan and has 15 staff led by the centre manager Reylene Ursula Dietar, nine nurses, four dialysis assistants and one administrative assistant.

“Most of our patients are sponsored - that is four under federal government and state, 29 receive subsidies from MoH, another 59 under Perkeso (Social Security Organisation) and the remaining 10 on their own expenses,” he said and added each patient would have to undergo at least three times of haemodialysis treatment.

Also present were Welfare, Community Wellbeing, Women, Family and Childhood Development Assistant Minister Datuk Francis Harden, KAS/Rotary president Dato Sri JC Fong, KAS/Rotary deputy president Dr Simon Wong, Dr Tan and Reylene.