

Rise in young kidney patients

BY NAZMI SUHAIMI

KUCHING: Kidney failures are affecting people of all ages with a rise in number of young patients nationwide.

National Kidney Foundation chief executive officer Chua Hong Wee said that the patients had to face challenges in getting treatment for the disease.

"They have to come three times a week and spend four hours on the machines.

This resulted in many of them becoming unemployable while some of them ended up working from home," he said during a visit to the National Kidney Foundation dialysis centre here yesterday.

Earlier, he welcomed Welfare, Community Wellbeing, Women, Family and Childhood Development Minister Datuk Seri Fatimah Abdullah to the centre.

Fatimah was there to promote the state government's special

aid to kidney patients which was launched late last year.

Also present were Community Wellbeing Assistant Minister Datuk Francis Harden Hollis and Kidney Association of Sarawak (KAS) president Datuk Seri JC Fong.

Saying that the number of young kidney failure patients was increasing every year, Chua cited a 16-year-old patient who had to take her examinations recently while being hooked to a hemodialysis machine.

"She was only 16. The kidney allocation system also has to be changed to give priority to younger patients with the disease.

"The number one cause of kidney failure is diabetes which is growing every year. The total number of patients in Malaysia is close to 40,000 and every year, it increases by 20 percent which is a 7,000 to 8,000 increase every year," he said.



CHUA (third left) receives a memento from Fatimah. From left are KAS secretary Henry Chan, KAS vice-president Dr Simon Wong, Harden and Fong.