

# Invitation to today's blood, organ donation drive at Vivacity Megamall

**KUCHING:** A blood and organ donation campaign is taking place at Vivacity Megamall today (Oct 29) from 10am to 3pm.

It is jointly organised by Lions Club of Kuching One Earth, Divine Will Society Kuching, Blood Bank of Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) Stampin Branch and Leo Club St. Joseph Private School.

The organ donation campaign is held concurrently by MRCS Stampin Branch, whereby SGH blood bank healthcare professionals provide facilities for the blood donation campaign.

Malaysia, is ranked as one of the 10 countries with the lowest transplant rates in the world, with 2.84 transplants per million population.

According to statistics, 10,442

people are waiting for organ donation in Malaysia, while only 2,700 transplant cases involving donated organs have been performed since 1975.

The National Kidney Foundation found that a dialysis patient has to wait for an average of 12 to 15 years for a transplant, given the large volume of patients who require the procedure and who are

burdened with haemodialysis treatments for kidney failure.

A single organ donor can save up to eight lives and impact as many as 75 if they give their corneas.

The numerous organs and tissues that can be transplanted are kidneys, heart, liver, lungs, pancreas, intestines, corneas, tendons, valves, veins, skin and bones.

Children can also choose to be organ donors, bearing in mind that children are on the organ transplant list too, and they need organs to fit their small size.

However, donors of 18 years old and below are required to seek written permission from their parents or guardians.

To donate blood or organs, or to learn more, visit the campaign at the East Atrium of the mall.