

TARIKH	20 / 2 / 2013	SECTION	
MUKA SURAT	24	RUANGAN	Local News

Boon for kidney patients

CARING GOVERNMENT: Health Ministry plans to have dialysis facilities in public health clinics in stages

KOI KYE LEE

THE Health Ministry is embarking on a programme to have haemodialysis treatment facilities at its health clinics.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Llow Tjong Lai said yesterday that this would be done in stages.

At present, he said, haemodialysis treatment was available at the Simpang Renggam health clinic in Johor.

The second government clinic to have such facilities will be the one in Kodiang, Kedah.

This is likely to be offered by the month-end.

Llow said haemodialysis treatment, however, would depend largely on the availability of space at health clinics.

"We are looking at clinics that are closer to

hospitals for now."

The setting up of these dialysis centres at clinics would also depend on the availability of funds to run them, he added. There are 800 health clinics in the country.

Earlier, Llow received a donation of 41 haemodialysis machines, worth RM1.68 million, from Lembaga Tabung Haji as part of its corporate social responsibility project.

Llow said in 2011, an additional 5,201 people sought dialysis treatment.

"Malaysia now has 26,159 patients undergoing dialysis treatment."

Llow urged members of the public to take care of their health and to lead a healthy lifestyle as the main cause of end-stage kidney failure among Malaysians was diabetes.

There were 7,088 haemodialysis machines operating in 2011, with 1,711 machines at public centres, 3,195 at private centres and 2,183 at centres run by non-governmental organisations.