

## ONLINE MEDIA

<b>ONLINE MEDIA : NEW SARAWAK TRIBUNE</b>	<b>DATE : 3 OCTOBER 2013</b>
<b>COMPANY : MAA MEDICARE</b>	<b>SECTION/PAGE : NEWS</b>
<b>LINK:</b> <b><a href="http://www.newsarawaktribune.com/news/12625/More-dialysis-machine-donors-wanted/">http://www.newsarawaktribune.com/news/12625/More-dialysis-machine-donors-wanted/</a></b>	

### More dialysis machine donors wanted

KUCHING: The CHKMUS-MAA Medicare, which runs a charity dialysis centre, needs more dialysis machines to meet the needs of patients at the centre.

MAA Medicare Senior Manager (Training and Medical) Dr Azman Mohd Sharif said the centre currently had 31 haemodialysis machines used by 158 registered patients.

"Therefore, we need some more units to meet the needs of growing number of kidney patients on the waiting list," he told reporters after attending the tagging ceremony of a haemodialysis machine worth RM40,000 donated by Global Minerals (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd, yesterday.

Dr Azman said the centre's existing dialysis machines could only serve 180 patients as the list of new patients grew.

He said one haemodialysis machine could be used by six patients per day.

"As such, the centre is crucially in need of more machines to accommodate more patients," he said, adding that the centre had three shifts per day beginning from 7.00am till 10.00pm.

"Each treatment session takes about four hours and a patient is required to undergo dialysis three times a week," he pointed out.

Of the centre's 158 registered patients, who came from Kuching, Kota Samarahan, Bau, Lundu, Serian and other areas, 27 had contracted Hepatitis B virus.

Meanwhile, Global Minerals (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd's Executive Vice-Chairman Alexander Wong said his company donated the dialysis machine as part of its corporate social responsibility.

"It is intended to help kidney patients and ease the burden of their families," he said, adding that many of the patients came from underprivileged families and could not afford treatment at expensive dialysis centres.

Wong called on large companies and corporations bodies to contribute to any charity dialysis centre in the state to help those in need.

The dialysis machine donated by Global Minerals is placed on the second floor of the centre for use by patients with hepatitis virus.

MAA Medicare, a non-profit trust fund established in 1994 to help kidney patients, had teamed up with Char Har Khor Moral Uplifting Society (CHKMUS) to run the charity dialysis centre.