



(From left)
Myza, Tan, Raja,
Sazrul, Sumitra
and Karen at
the launch.

Artistes unite for charity music fest

By Dennis Chua

SOUL man David Arumugam of the legendary Alleycats, famed for his *terima kasih* salute, will be joining 14 other bands and soloists in a charity musical festival at The Wharf in Armada Hotel, Jalan Utara, Petaling Jaya from 3pm to 1am on March 31.

The Saving Lives Together Charity MusicFest promises a good 10 hours of solid music by some of Malaysia's best known club, pub and restaurant bands.

The other bands and soloists are Fats & Vernon, Sensation, Smalltones, Bala, Chemistry, Turquoise, Soul Doctors, Big Game, Albert, Vijay & Bada, Black Stallion & Four Ways, Thunder Storm, Sharin Band, Sasi The Don and Superfriends.

The festival is in aid of the MAA-Medicare Kidney Charity Fund as well as the Musicians' Benefit Fund.

The Musicians' Benefit Fund, which was launched at the Regent Hotel in Jalan Bukit Bintang on March 3, allows musicians who perform at charity gigs to seek medical aid in times of need. The MAA-Medicare Kidney Charity Fund assists 600 kidney patients in 11 dialysis centres nationwide.

The hotel and Showbiz Promotions are the joint organisers of the event, while Guinness Anchor Bhd, KL Monorail and CT Wide Services are

MAA-Medicare Kidney Charity Fund general manager Aliyah Karen said: "We are looking forward to a fun and music-filled night that will hopefully raise sufficient funds for us to purchase a dialysis machine for one of our centres."

"We are also pleased to be involved in the setting up of the Musicians' Benefit Fund and contribute towards the well-being of dedicated artistes."

Raja said they hoped to raise RM20,000 to RM50,000 for the funds, and expected 700 to 1,000 guests to turn up.

Hotel general manager Sazrul Fadzil said: "Every year, 2,200 people are diagnosed with kidney ailments and need expensive treatment. The average monthly cost of dialysis per patient can be as high as RM3,500."

"In view of this, we have gathered some veteran musicians and bands to encourage Malaysians to help kidney patients improve their lives."

MAA-Medicare Kidney Charity Fund public relations and special projects assistant manager Sumitra Selvaraj said patients pay RM60 for every dialysis treatment in each centre.

"We have eight nephrologists and 94 nurses attending to our patients nationwide, as well as 160 dialysis machines. Our 600 patients spend four hours thrice a week undergoing treatment."

The music festival was launched at



David
Arumugam.