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Fund-raising gala in aid of Hospis M'sia

Money collected will be used for palliative care



Good cause:
(From left): Dr Ednin, Hospis Malaysia council member Datin Kathleen Chew, Michelle Quah, Tony Eusoff and Hospis Malaysia chairman Datuk Dr Sir Peter Mooney.

IN CONJUNCTION with World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, Hospis Malaysia will be holding its biannual Voices for Hospices gala fundraising event on Oct 24.

Held for the third time since 2005, the event raises funds to help Hospis Malaysia continue its work in providing free palliative care and support to patients with life-threatening illnesses.

Since its inception in 1991, Hospis Malaysia has attended to thousands of patients and has recorded immense growth both in capacity and staff strength. Now Malaysia's largest and only medical-based hospice, they maintain a 25-man full time staff of palliative care professionals.

Speaking at the launch, Hospis Malaysia, CEO and medical director Dr Ednin Hamzah said: "We are proud that through years of good work,

Hospis Malaysia has become the single largest palliative care provider in Malaysia and also the main centre for palliative care education in the country.

"About 1,500 patients are cared for each year through our home care and day-care service while hundreds of healthcare professionals are involved in our educational and teaching programmes."

"We take it upon ourselves to accept all patients suffering from life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, AIDS, organ failures, neurological disorders who live in the Klang Valley.

"Our success has created greater demand for palliative care and the pressure of providing these services at no cost to our patients is an increasing challenge to our organisation," added Dr Ednin.

As part of its motto to provide the

best care and support to patients and their families, Hospis Malaysia's annual operational cost of RM1.8mil is fully funded by donations from corporations, individuals and patients' families.

These donations are used for patient care, which includes the provision of medication, psychological support as well as practical and physical care.

The hospice's services also include the loan of equipment such as oxygen concentrators, syringe drivers, suction machines, ripple mattresses, hospital beds, wheelchairs and commodes, which are made available to patients - at no charge.

This year's gala, themed "Discovering your Voice" will feature local artistes Tony Eusoff and Michelle Quah, who will serenade guests with their astounding vocals for a good cause.