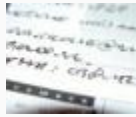


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MR1M in hospitals to help families of long-staying patients

KUCHING: The Sarawak General Hospital (SGH) has become the first in the country to include the Menu Rakyat 1Malaysia (MR1M) programme.

Notably, the hospital would help its cafeteria operators to design the menus to ensure that it would serve nutritious food to customers.

Launching this yesterday was Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Deputy Minister Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim, who was happy to note that the hospital would also do a calorie count on the food.

The human body requires an optimal 2,000 calories per day.

"The MR1M programme actually started at Sibu hospital first but there was no launch done. Now SGH have joined in the programme," she said.

Rohani believed bringing the MR1M programme to hospitals would ease the burden of the accompanying families of long-staying patients.

"The menu will certainly help provide a good meal to those who are accompanying their loved ones who are ill.

"Some come from very far and to subject them to spending more on food will just add to their burden," she said.

Rohani was told that the hospital cafeteria could easily get some 2,000 customers at any day.

She said the cafeteria would sell the MR1M breakfast for not more than RM2.50 per set and lunch menu not more than RM5 per set.

Rohani said the idea behind the MR1M was to ease the burden of the people given the rising cost of living these days.

Futhermore, she said many opted for eating out because of their busy work schedule.

"There have also been requests for us to start a MR1M for dinner but we want to encourage the people to reserve dinner time at home instead of constantly eating out," she said.

Rohani stressed that the MR1M was not a form of price control imposed on entrepreneurs but instead a corporate social responsibility for their loyal customers.

She said operators had a free hand in designing their own MR1M menus while the ministry would only keep watch over the quality aspects.

Apparently, she noticed that Sarawak has been responding quite well to the MR1M programme.

"Even the higher learning institutions here are enthusiastic about jumping on the bandwagon.

"The Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), for example, has the most cafeterias on campus that provide the MR1M."

Rohani said the Government required all public and private higher learning institutions to have the MR1M for its students.

"Right now, UNIMAS has the most number with 34 of its cafeterias serving the MR1M.

"Altogether, all 20 public universities in Malaysia have the programme," she said.

It is revealed that 184 cafeterias in the 20 public universities have the MR1M.

The menu is also available in 57 private universities and colleges, 25 polytechnics, 11 community colleges and 67 training and learning institutions nationwide.

Source : **Thestar Online**