

Keep case notes on healings for research

By Zoe Hillson

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KUCHING: Practitioners of traditional medicine were reminded to maintain case notes for every patient to assist scientific research by relevant agencies.

Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah yesterday said keeping case notes updated would benefit both traditional medicine practitioners and the public.

"I concur with the Ministry of Health's recommendation for traditional healers to maintain case notes for each healing. These notes can act as a spring board for scientific research to be carried out by relevant agencies," she said.

Fatimah said this when opening the Sarawak Traditional and Complementary Medicine and Anti-Cancer seminar, charity and herbal exhibition at Industrial

Promotion and Exhibition Centre (Sipac).

The minister said according to 2001 to 2005 statistics from the State Health Department, cancer was highest among the Chinese community followed by Ibans, Malay, Bidayuhs and Melanaus.

She added that the top five cancers in males in the state are cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung, nasopharynx, colorectal, stomach and lymphoma. In females, the top five most common cancers are of the breast, cervix, colorectal, trachea, and cancer of the bronchus, lung and ovary.

Fatimah also said there are various cancer support groups in the state including Sarawak Children's Cancer Society, National Cancer Society Malaysia and Laila Taib Cancer Charitable Trust.

She added that there is also a non-governmental support service which provides lodging for

families battling cancer in Jasmin House at Jalan Ahmad Zaidi Aduce.

The inaugural Sarawak Traditional and Complementary Medicine Seminar, Charity and Herbal Exhibition showcased a rich variety of local herbs used by various ethnic groups in the state.

Held from June 9 and 10, the event is jointly organised by Sarawak Traditional and Complementary Medicine Association, Malaysian Anti-Cancer Association and Sarawak Herbal Association.

Also present were Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Faculty of Resource Science and Technology deputy dean Prof Dr Fasihuddin Ahmad, Asian Institute of Management Science Sdn Bhd dean of traditional complementary medicine, Prof Dr Razali Bolhi and organising chairman and president of Malaysian Anti-Cancer



HERBAL GOODNESS: Fatimah with (from left) Wong, Fasihuddin and Razali look at herbal plants at the exhibition. Photo by Jeffery Mostapa.