

Wishes of 3 terminally ill kids fulfilled

DE 23.11.2019 7

Ottey Peter

KOTA KINABALU: Three terminally ill children had their wishes come true as they got to fly in a helicopter around the State Capital through the "Your Wishes, We Fulfil" programme of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science (FMHS), University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Thursday.

The Eurocopter AS355NP helicopter steered by Captain Mahmud Mohamad departed Kota Kinabalu International Airport (KKIA) at 2pm with five passengers - the children and two medical officers - and landed safely at FMHS about 2.20pm.

The event was organised in collaboration with Sabah Air Aviation Sdn Bhd, Medstas and Care of Terminally Ill Programme Masjid Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu (Coti MBR) in commemorating the 25th anniversary of UMS establishment.

UMS FMHS Deputy Dean (Student Affairs and the Public Network), Dr Yeap Boon Tat, said as a community-based faculty, FMHS has taken an effort to personally listen to the plight of the people.

He said the organisations involved were delighted to collaborate in this community service responsibility (CSR) to grant the children their wishes.

"This is the first time Coti MBR and Sabah Air Aviation are organising this event. Having UMS and Medstas in the picture will surely make it more memorable.

"We are also thankful to the Hospital Likas Paediatric Palliative Committee, led by Dr Ng Su Fang and assisted by Staff Nurse Arlene Biluh, for being proactive in their humanitarian mis-

sion. We hope to collaborate again in future," he told a press conference after the programme.

Meanwhile, Mohd Saifullah B Jidin, a nine-year-old boy who is suffering from complex cyanotic heart disease, said he was happy to fly in a helicopter.

His mother, Suzi Joning, said his son was diagnosed with the disease when he was six months old.

She said his son had recently told her that he wanted to have a ride in a helicopter as he already boarded a flight.

"When Saifullah was six months old, he was always crying and his nails were blue. So I took him to the hospital and the doctor said his heart is not normal.

"I then have to limit his activities. I didn't let him go out because his body is very sensitive. He can get sick easily," she said.

Another boy, Mohd Azlan Abdullah, aged seven, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma at the age of five.

His father, Norasmi Abu Bakar, said his son often had fever and stomachache.

He said he knew about the programme through the nurse at the hospital where his son was treated.

"Azlan is very active and has no problem with food. He can eat whatever he wants. The doctor said he might not be able to live long, but I believe there is always hope and I will try my best to fight for his life," he said.

Athirah Mohamed, a brave 11-year-old girl from Keningau who has leukaemia, was happy to fly in a helicopter.

She said the view from above the sky



The children and a medical officer (seated) giving thumbs up after landed safely.

was amazing and wished to get another ride in future. Her mother, Hani Acho, said her daughter was diagnosed with the disease last year and thought she will get better.

Instead, her daughter's condition got worse in June this year and she has to stop her from going to school so as to get treatment at the hospital.

She said it was really hard for her as

it was too sudden and it has never happened to any of her family members.

"We went to hospital for her treatment in June and around October, she finished it all. She often complained of pains during the chemotherapy, she had no appetite and was vomiting. It was really hard to see her being sick. Before this, she was very active. I hope she can get better soon."