Child cancer survivor looks forward to brighter future

KUALA LUMPUR: At the age of 11, brain cancer patient Fatin Liyana Jalani had to forgo school for over a year as she sought treatment at the University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC).

However, it did not stop her from graduating in 2010 with a diploma in Tourism Management at Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, having recovered fully in 2001.

“My parents provided me with unwavering support so that I can continue to recover until today. Their words of encouragement have made me stronger,” she told Bernama when met at the 10th Child Cancer Social Assembly at University of Malaya, here yesterday.

The 23-year-old from Kuala Lumpur, who now works as a vendor at CIMB Bank, is determined to put her past behind her and is looking forward to achieving excellence in her future endeavours.

Meanwhile, mother to acute lymphoblastic leukaemia patient, Roziah Mad Zain, 30, said her daughter Nur Faqihah Izzati Efandi is now active and cheerful after undergoing treatment two years ago.

“She receives treatment every fortnight at a clinic in Alor Gajah and goes for follow-up checks at the UMMC every three months.

“In terms of studies, my five-year-old is weak in writing but she shows great progress in memorising,” she said, adding that Nur Faqihah knows the lyrics to the song “Cinta Muka Buku” by heart.

Roziah prays that her daughter fully recovers so that she can continue life and pursue her dreams of being in the police uniform unit.

According to UMMC Paediatric Oncology senior specialist consultant Prof Dr Hany Griffin, many cancer patients who undergo consistent treatment managed to recover, pursue studies at a high level and obtain a stable career.

“There is still hope for cancer patients to recover by following the treatment set by the hospital, in addition to the support from parents and family members,” she said. - Bernama