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AIDS (With Pix)

STOP DISCRIMINATING AGAINST AIDS SUFFERERS, FAMILIES, SAYS MARINA

KUALA LUMPUR, May 20 (Bernama) -- Society needs to change its attitude towards HIV sufferers and their families by increasing the people's knowledge on AIDS, Malaysian Aids Council president Marina Mahathir said today.

She said that by discriminating against them, these patients and their families suffered not only physical anguish but also social and economic persecution.

"They are being tormented and alienated although there is no evident threat against anyone," she said when opening the World AIDS Memorial Week organised jointly by the Malaysian Aids Council and the Malaysian Aids Foundation at the Central Market here.

Marina said the discrimination was due to the lack of indepth understanding of the disease.

The week-long programme with the theme: "AIDS Discrimination is a global epidemic, Together we can overcome it" includes an exhibition, public forum and quiz to be held at the Central Market from today until May 25.

A drama entitled "Talking Aids" will also be staged at the Actor's Studio, Plaza Putra from May 23 till 28.

The week's highlight will be the AIDS Memorial Night on May 26 at Merdeka Square which Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is expected to attend. -- BERNAMA

RAZ/LS JK