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Babies-HIV

46 BABIES INFECTED WITH HIV SINCE 1986

PETALING JAYA, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- A total of 46 babies has been infected with the Human-Immune-Dificiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS, since it was first detected in Malaysia in 1986, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said today.

Marina, who is the President of the Malaysian Aids Council, said however, the relevant ministries such as the National Unity and Social Development Ministry, the Education and Health ministries, had not addressed the issue of the infected babies adequately.

"For example, issues like what is the future of the Aids orphans who are already disadvantaged and the stigma that they face have not been dealt with properly," she told reporters today while attending the Third Media Workshop on HIV/AIDS 97 here.

Marina also said officials from the respective ministries were also not trained to handle AIDS cases and they also did not have a policy on this matter.

"The relevant ministries are also not ready to tackle the larger implication of Aids cases and it is essential now that they learn to respond to this serious problem. They should also educate the employees on Aids," she added.

Marina also urged the Education ministry to sent circulars to the 8,000 schools in the country to promote World AIDS Day and create awareness among the students about AIDS.

In conjunction with World AIDS Day which falls on Dec 1, themed Children Living In The World of AIDS, several events had been lined-up to commemorate the day.

Highlights of the programme was the launching of a children's story book on HIV /AIDS which is based on a true story about a child who is HIV positive. -- BERNAMA

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