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Pengasih - family

FAMILIES OF DRUG ADDICTS AND AIDS PATIENTS NEED ATTENTION TOO

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17 (Bernama) -- Family Support Group can play an effective role in helping to reduce pressure faced by former drug addicts and AIDS patients as well as their families, Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said.

She said so far care and attention were only given to individuals involved while the families who also suffered were neglected.

"We must not forget the families in resolving the problem," he said when launching the Family Support Group set up by Persatuan Pengasih Malaysia (Pengasih), an association of former drug addicts, here today.

Family Support Group is aimed at enhancing understanding on the dadah menace and HIV/AIDS as well as creating families understanding the needs of each other.

Pengasih president Yunus Fathi Mohd said the setting up of the Family Support Group hopefully could produce individuals as a role model in the understanding of the problem.

"The fact is that society has varied intepretation of addiction. Academicians would say one thing while the ulamas and pyschologists say another," he said.

He hoped the government in particular the Education Ministry could provide a course or a special subject in the treatment of drug addicts because pyschology was to vast a subject.

Singer cum actor Awie, who was also present, described the setting up of Family Support Group as a good move in preventing former drug addicts from being shunned by society. -- BERNAMA

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