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#### Rehabilitation centre celebrates second anniversary

FREE AT LAST ... In a gesture symbolising the quest for dadah addicts to free from their desolation, these doves were released yesterday at the second anniversary celebrations of self-help group Persatuan Pengasih Malaysia's programme for drug addicts and HIV/AIDS or HIV-positive carriers.

Present to do the honours were PPM president Mohd Yunus Pathi Mohd (second from left) and Malaysian Aids Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir (second from right).

In a unique sidewalk ceremony held at the organisation's premises at Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the anniversary of the 'Bakti Kasih' programme was celebrated with music, food and cheer.

Former addicts and volunteers could be seen busy making last minute preparations for the ceremony, obviously happy to belong to an organisation which many have come to know as a source of inspiration and refuge.

Highlights included a stirring testimony of an ex-addict and HIV-positive carrier and a beautiful rendition of a poem and a song and guitar performance by reformed addicts Ghazali Ismail and Amran Mohd respectively.

The function was attended by representatives from the Health Ministry and Kuala Lumpur City Hall, a group of student nurses from the Kuala Lumpur Hospital and family members of addicts undergoing rehabilitation.

Student nurse Siti Juairiah Wel, 24, said: "I've come to give moral support to the organisation and to learn more about the plight of drug addicts."

Also present was Major Raj Kumar, general manager of MBF Protection Sdn Bhd.

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