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#### The four elements of caring society

PETALING JAYA, Wed. - There are four elements that can be used in trying to define a caring society and a caring culture, president of the Malaysian Aids Council, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said today.

She said one was the spirit of volunteerism, whether people were willing to donate their time and energy to do things other than for themselves.

Marina said the second involved caring for individuals.

"Apart from focussing on the people who directly need care, what do we do for the people around them, the care giver?

"What sort of support do we give them because these are the people we tend to forget about. There should be a family support group and a support group for different affected people rather than only for those who are directly involved."

Marina was speaking to reporters after her speech at the National Congress on Vision 2020 at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel.

She was speaking on the subject of establishing a fully caring society and a caring culture.

Marina said the third element was the protection of rights of people who were disempowered.

"We are unlikely to want to be caring if we don't see these people as normal human beings. If we deny them basic human rights such as the right to shelter, the right to take care of themselves, then we are not likely to extend a helping hand."

(END)