

04 MAY 1997

Sabbaruddin-AIDS

M'SIA TO INTENSIFY AIDS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 4 (Bernama) -- The Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry will liaise with the services industry to step up awareness campaigns and educational programmes on Aids to enlighten the people on the dangers of the deadly disease.

Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said the programmes would be tailored particularly to those engaged in the country's services industry.

They need to be educated on the deadly disease and that chances of them being infected with HIV and Aids in the course of discharging their daily routine duties were scarce, he said.

The tourism industry was not spared from Aids with the increasing number of travellers worldwide, he said when opening the World Aids Rememberance Night at Merdeka Square, here, tonight.

Sabbaruddin said tourists were constanly reminded on the risks of contracting Aids if they were involved in random sex.

In 1995, about 6.2 million Malaysians travelled abroad with 7.2 million tourists visiting Malaysia in that year, he said.

"Thus, there is a big possibility of our people contracting Aids," he said.

He also said creative efforts through films, dramas and music could be used to instil awareness on Aids among the people.

Also present was Malaysia Aids Council President Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, who is also Malaysia Aids Foundation chairperson.

-- BERNAMA

HAK TS