

21/08/1997

Undergraduates lead by forming AIDS club

Cheah Phaik Kin

IT is rewarding, something good to do and definitely for a noble cause.

Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir was confident the young generation had the edge and the ability to contribute to society and join her and many others worldwide to fight AIDS.

She launched the Universiti Putra Malaysia AIDS Volunteers Club initiated by students of the Faculty of Human Ecology and Faculty of Health Science and Biomedicine recently.

Witnessed by more than 70 students and lecturers, the event brought the students a step closer to achieving the country's vision of creating a caring society.

In her speech, Marina said she was touched by the students genuine intentions to perform good deeds and support the nation's vision to create a caring society.

She added that she had always been greatly interested in student projects and the Malaysian AIDS Council would support the club's activities and provide the necessary training and education.

"The move is also timely, in line with the recent launch of the Yayasan Salam," she said.

"It is also about time we give something back to the society.

"Charity work does not only benefit the recipients but the givers as well although it involves sacrifices.

"The sense of personal achievement is satisfying."

Marina also urged other local institutions of higher learning to follow the example of the UPM students.

Club president S.P. Suresh Kumar Dhawan said they were moved by the plight of AIDS victims.

"We sympathise with them and hope to spread the message about the prevention of AIDS among the young generation," he said.

He added that the club which has about 80 members also aimed to promote volunteerism among the undergraduates of the university.

"I feel that we should do our bit and contribute to society," he said.

Suresh, who enjoys volunteer work, said the committee planned to hold ongoing activities for club members who would also volunteer their services to assist AIDS organisations and the Malaysian AIDS Council.

Also present at the launch was UPM deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs) Prof Rahim Md Sail who supported the students' efforts.

He said he was impressed with the students efforts.

"I am proud of all of you," he declared.

(END)