

15 APR 1998

Aids

MAC YET TO FIND A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR HOSPICE FOR AIDS PATIENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 15 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Aids Council (MAC) has yet to identify a suitable location for a hospice for Aids patients made homeless after being rejected by their families.

Its president, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, said today there were still people who react negatively to the idea of a hospice near their home due to ignorance of Aids.

"Because of their attitude MAC still could not find a suitable place for them," she told reporters after witnessing the presentation of a return air ticket to London by British High Commissioner to Malaysia David Moss to the hospice outreach programme manager, Prasanna Mohandas, here today.

The British High Commission is funding a two-year Capacity Enhancement Project with the MAC's hospice programme.

Marina said MAC was trying to solve the problem and would set up a place for them the soonest.

She said through the MAC outreach programme, 60 Aids patients in the hospitals had been identified as having no place to go after receiving treatment.

Last January, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said the government had agreed in principle to allow MAC to establish a hospice for Aids patients at the Kuala Kubu Baharu Hospital.

The six-bed residential hospice will be set up at the unutilised areas of the hospital and the government would hand over the premise to MAC once the necessary procedures were completed.

This will be a pioneer programme which provides comprehensive care including medical care, counselling and spiritual support for patients.

Moss, in his speech, said Britain was willing to share their experience in handling Aids problem with other countries including Malaysia.

"MAC workers' visit to London is not just to gain experience but also give the British organisations on Aids the opportunity to learn how MAC handles the problem here," he said. -- BERNAMA

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