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Pasrah will only inflame prejudices, says Marina

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Malaysian AIDS Council today condemned the setting up of the Pergerakan Sukarela Rakyat Anti-Homoseksual (Pasrah), saying that discrimination against any group of people was against the spirit of a caring society.

Its president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said as a caring society, Malaysians should be reaching out towards all marginalised groups.

"This compassionate attitude provides many benefits to society, including assisting in disease prevention and the resolution of social challenges," she said.

Marina added that hate campaigns such as that advocated by Pasrah only inflamed prejudices and made anti-social acts such as harassment of certain groups acceptable.

"Although we are not advocating homosexuality as a way of life, we nevertheless feel that Pasrah's campaign is a poor reflection of Malaysia which is generally tolerant of peaceful diversity among its people," she said.

Suara Rakyat Malaysia also expressed its concern over the formation of Pasrah, saying it was an attempt to incite discrimination of a minority group.

"Suaram strongly opposes the discrimination and vilification of any group within the Malaysian community, particularly as a means of promoting a political agenda," its co-ordinator Elizabeth Wong said.

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