

04 SEP 1999

INTENSIFY PROGRAMMES TO CREATE AIDS-FREE YOUTH, SAYS S'WAK

KUCHING, Sept 4 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office Alfred Yap said the government-initiated programme to promote Aids-free youths or Prostar needed to be intensified.

He made the call in the light of recent disclosure by Malaysian Aids Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir that Malaysians in the 18-30 age group was a high-risk group because of their ignorance of HIV, the virus which causes Aids.

Prostar had so far enlisted 21,000 youths nation-wide to join the programme.

"Elders not only have to oversee the daily activities of youths but also educate them on the Aids scourge," Yap said when flagging off the national-level Prostar run here today.

Official figures showed that 23,571 Malaysians have been infected with Aids from January 1986 to November 1997.

Of the number, 43 per cent of the cases were those aged between 30 and 29 and 40.6 per cent, aged between 20 and 29.

-- BERNAMA

RDY RYN