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Call for compulsory sex, AIDS education

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Education Ministry should consider making sex and AIDS education compulsory in schools, said Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir.

She said the youth should be equipped with information on such issues.

"Sex and AIDS are taboo subjects and people are not too keen to talk about them. But, by not equipping young people with enough information, we are not shouldering our responsibility by looking after them," she said.

She said 33,000 people were reported to have been infected with HIV since 1996 of whom 80 per cent were between 20 and 39 years old.

Marina said talking about AIDS and the transmission of the disease could be quite difficult. She said this was why people involved in the dissemination of information on the subject needed help in communicating their objectives.

"You would have to be very careful not to say the wrong thing and get people's defences up. That is why courses on improving one's presentation skills prove helpful," Marina said at MAC headquarters after officiating at the opening of the Rogen Presentation Skills Programme for HIV/AIDS Educators workshop, which was jointly organised by MAC and Rogen Malaysia yesterday.

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