

21 JUNE 2000

Website-HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS INFORMATION ON OCTOPUS ONLINE'S MALAY WEBSITE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- Octopus Online, which runs a popular entertainment website at [www.octopus.com.my](http://www.octopus.com.my), today launched its Malay version with information clips on HIV/AIDS.

Malaysian AIDS council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said the young, the group targetted in the dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS, preferred to visit entertainment websites.

"Posting information on HIV/AIDS on entertainment websites is thus the best way to reach out to the young generation," she said in launching the Octopus Online Malay website here today.

Marina said 80 per cent of the 34,000 people down with AIDS in Malaysia is in the 20-39 age group.

She said if HIV prevention efforts among the young generation failed, it would cost the country dearly.

Cosmos Discovery Sdn Bhd artistes and event management director Veronica Ong said AIDS is a sensitive issue for discussion in Malaysian society.

Cosmos Discovery, an associate company of HVD Entertainment, set up Octopus Online on Feb 26, 1999 and the website now enjoys six million hits a month.

"Issues about sex and drug use are rarely discussed positively and openly. We hope Octopus Online will be able to provide a more open communication channel," she said.

The Octopus Online Bahasa Malaysia version website carries the latest entertainment news about local and international artistes.

The partners of Octopus Online include TMNet, Bernama, Guang Ming Daily, Reservoir, One World and JC Group.

-- BERNAMA

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