

21/09/2000

Malaysian AIDS Foundation hopes to raise RM2m at Red Ribbon Gala 2000

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Malaysian AIDS Foundation is hoping to raise RM2 million at the Red Ribbon Gala 2000 to be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel on Sept 30.

"We need a big injection of funds after the economic crisis when we were living off our reserves," said MAF chairwoman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir at a Press conference here today.

"So far the response has been good."

She said some companies did not hesitate to contribute, especially when explained the seriousness of AIDS and the terrible effect it could have on the economy.

MAF is the fund-raising arm of the Malaysian AIDS Council which facilitates and provides funding for HIV/AIDS related activities. Marina is the Malaysian AIDS Council president.

The gala is the MAF's premier charity event and was first held in 1996.

This year's guests of honour will be Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

There will be the presentation of the Red Ribbon Media Awards, which recognises media contribution to HIV/AIDS education at the function. A special mention award, named after Dr Siti Hasmah, will also be presented.

Highlights of the gala include a fashion show by Chanel featuring their Autumn/Winter Luxury Ready-to-Wear Collection, an exhibition of Bvlgari jewellery, an auction and a raffle.

The auction will give guests an opportunity to bid for a Bvlgari Tubogas necklace worth RM23,000, a Chanel handbag and a RM10,000 voucher valued at RM15,000. and a Hermes porcelain table set worth RM11,745. The raffle prizes include Prestige Limited Edition of Chanel No 5, a return trip to Bangkok for two on the Eastern and Oriental Express, a Sony Notebook and a weekend for two at the Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur.

Invitation to the gala is through a donation of either RM100,000 or RM50,000 for a table of 10.

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