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Marina-HIV

MARINA CALLS FOR SCIENTIFIC VERIFICATION FOR HIV CURE CLAIM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 6 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Aids Council views with much interest the claim by a team of doctors from the Melaka Homeopathy Hospital that it has found a cure for HIV, the AIDS-causing virus, after a three-year research.

Its president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said such claims might well be the actual cure for Aids that "we have been looking for but it should be researched and verified professionally before being publicised."

The team claimed there was four to five per cent reduction in virus content in nine people having HIV or AIDS after undergoing treatment for 11 days.

Marina said the duration was too short to determine its effectiveness.

"This claim must be verified through scientific research to prove that this treatment will effectively work on most patients and not just in a few select cases," she said in a statement today.

She said the council was open to alternative treatments and would support any treatment that would make HIV carriers or AIDS sufferers feel better.

She advised them to be wary of the cure unless it was scientifically proven to fulfil two conditions that were sustained over a decent length of time.

"For a cure to be valid, two things must occur. Firstly, the HIV must be eradicated from the body and secondly, the immune system must be rehabilitated," she said.

If the HIV was eradicated but the immune system remained damaged, the patient would still be susceptible to opportunistic diseases that might prove fatal, she said.

Marina said the Malaysian Aids Council was not in collaboration with the team over the research and hoped the Health Ministry would investigate the claim for the sake of HIV carriers and AIDS victims in the country.

-- BERNAMA

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