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Aids-Men

MEN SHOULD LEARN MORE ABOUT HIV/AIDS, SAYS MALAYSIAN AIDS COUNCIL

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- As the world celebrated Aids Day today, the Malaysian Aids Council wants men to learn more about HIV/Aids, its proper treatment and prevention programmes.

Malaysian Aids Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said: "This is important because if they are not infected, their partner won't be infected too."

Speaking to reporters here, she said educating men on HIV/Aids is vital as an estimated 30 million children worldwide have lost their mothers due to Aids.

Marina, earlier, launched a report "Living with HIV/Aids: Peer Documentation on Disrimination" in conjunction with World Aids Day.

She said men have become self-centred through assumptions such as that they are always knowledgeable about sex.

"Believing all these, they do nothing to learn about HIV/Aids, its treatment and prevention, without realising that such attitude put them at great risk of contracting HIV/Aids," she added.

United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids executive director Peter Piot said in the effort to curb the Aids epidemic, harmful concepts of masculinity need to be challenged.

"Many commonly held attitudes and behaviours need to be changed, including the way adult men look at risk and sexuality and how boys are socialised to become men.

"Boys who are brought up to believe that 'real men don't get sick' often see themselves as invulnerable to illness and risk. And, too often, it is seen as 'unmanly' to worry about avoiding drug-related risks or to bother with condoms," he said in a statement.

Piot said these attitudes seriously undermine Aids prevention efforts.

He said men need to be encouraged to adopt positive behaviours and to play a much greater part in caring for their families and partners.

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