

01 MAR 2000

Aids

MORE HIV/AIDS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES NEEDED, SAYS MARINA

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Aids Council has proposed that the Education Ministry take more efforts to broaden and produce better education programmes on Aids and HIV, including sex education.

In making the proposal, council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said there was a dire need to enhance the HIV/Aids education programmes targeting the younger generation in particular.

The need was more pressing given that 80 per cent of the 33,000 people infected or affected by the diseases in the country were in the 20 to 39 age group, she said.

"This disease is affecting the younger generation and if left unchecked it will affect the Malaysian economy," she said adding that the number of HIV/Aids sufferers in the country was increasing.

Marina was speaking at a news conference after opening a programme on presentation skills for HIV/Aids educators here today.

Asked about society's notion that sex education in schools is taboo, she said sex education, HIV and Aids should no longer be treated as "sensitive subjects" as people's lives are at stake.

"We need to provide knowledge to the younger generation on how to protect themselves from such diseases," she said.

The presentation skills programme was the second workshop that the council organised for educators actively involved in local and international dissemination of information on HIV/Aids in and outside the country.

Eight staff and volunteers from the Community AIDS Service Pulau Pinang, Persatuan Pengasih Malaysia, Pink Triangle Malaysia, Malaysia CARE, Faith Centre and the council are taking part in the two-day "Rogen Presentation Skills Programme".

-- BERNAMA

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