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NUTP: No need for sex education to be compulsory

MALACCA, Sat. - Although sex and AIDS education is important, it is no yet necessary to make it compulsory in schools, said National Union of the Teaching Profession president Abu Bakar Shawkat Ali.

There were enough subjects that touched on moral values and religious issues that could indirectly expose pupils to such matters, he said. He added there was no need to make sex and AIDS education a subject by itself.

"Teachers can explain in detail sex and AIDS in Biology. Teachers, however, must be keen in talking to pupils about such issues."

He said the NUTP would hold educational workshops for its 30,000 members in stages so that distribution of such information could be done effectively.

He was commenting on the call by Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir that the Education Ministry should consider making sex and AIDS education compulsory.

Marina had said youths should be equipped with information on such issues, adding that sex and AIDS were taboo subjects that people were not keen to talk about.

Marina had also said 33,000 people were reported to have been infected with HIV since 1996.

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