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AIDS-Report

REPORT ON HIV/AIDS TO BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Aids Foundation President Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir will launch a report on "Living with HIV/AIDS in Malaysia" tomorrow in conjunction with the World AIDS Day.

The special day, which falls on Dec 1 every year, aims at raising the awareness, care, treatment, education and prevention of the deadly disease among the public.

A Malaysian AIDS Council official told Bernama today that the strength of the study lied in the way it was conducted as people who had been infected by HIV/AIDS were the ones who actually carried out the survey among those in similar predicament.

The report, he said, was in fact a peer documentation on discrimination and stigma faced by people living with HIV/AIDS in Malaysia.

A Health Ministry document shows that from 1986 to May this year, there has been about 35,000 HIV cases in the country and 4,016 full-blown AIDS cases, claiming the lives of 3,021 people.

It has been reported that a total of 4,200 cases of AIDS were detected from January to June this year, 94 per cent of them involved men.

In Malaysia, the number of babies born with HIV infection has also increased from 20 in 1996 to 37 in the first six months of this year.

The HIV/AIDS rate among young men in Malaysia is on the rise and it is feared that it will keep abreast of the world trend whereby there are more men infected with HIV and dying of AIDS than women.

-- BERNAMA

SM MAM ABG