

Islamic religious leaders for study tour in Uganda

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian AIDS Council is organising a study tour in Uganda for seven local Islamic religious leaders for the first time to observe a project called "AIDS Education Through Imams" from Nov 1 to Nov 8.

Pioneered by the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda (IMAU), the project which is cited by the United Nations Joint Programmes on HIV/AIDS as one of the best practices on AIDS, is expected to inspire religious leaders to help in efforts to battle against AIDS when they return.

The council's executive director Nik Fahmee Nik Hussin will be leading the delegation.

The council's president, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, said the study tour was aimed at exposing the leaders to efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Uganda.

"What's interesting in the project is the association mobilising imams at every district to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS," she said.

The seven religious leaders who will be going for the study tour are mufti of Perlis Sahibul Samahah Datuk Mat Jahya, Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim) Family Development, Social and Mosque Management Division assistant director Mohd Radzuan Abdullah, National Mosque Imam Pirdaus Ismail, Jakim Division of Secretariat and International Affairs assistant director Mashitah Abdullah, its Training Division assistant director Ustazah Norliah Sajuri, Federal Territory Imam Mohamad Mohd Zain and Persatuan Pengasih Malaysia Clinical (Religious Session) senior assistant Mohd Najib Mohamad Harun.