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#### AIDS foundation gets much-needed cash boost

DELOITTE KassimChan's recent donation of RM50,000 to the Malaysian AIDS Foundation is a welcome relief as it had not seen any funds from the public for the first four months of the year.

The company's contribution came from its pro-amateur charity golf tournament, which was held at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club in Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur, recently.

The mock cheque was presented to foundation chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir by Deloitte KassimChan managing partner Ahmad Mustapha Ghazali, after the tournament.

Marina said the lack of donations had placed the foundation "in an alarming situation" as funds had run low.

She said if the foundation does not receive any public donations, then it would have to dip into its savings.

The foundation needs RM2 million a year to run programmes in its fight against HIV/AIDS, she added.

Marina added that during the Sixth Regional AIDS Conference held in Melbourne, Australia recently, representatives from member countries in the Asia-Pacific region had raised concern over getting sustainable funds.

She said with a new war going on, much of the funds would go towards the victims and the war itself.

"We fear that our resources will be cut.

"The fight against HIV/AIDS is ongoing," she said.

Marina said for the past 20 years, it had claimed some 21 million lives globally, and more people were dying of the disease every day.

She said the number of people infected with the disease also rose by 5,000 patients every year.

"This number refers to reported cases. What about unreported ones? Some of them don't even know they have the disease.

Marina said HIV/AIDS strikes mainly youths, and that 80 per cent victims all over the world are aged between 20 and 39.

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