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GIVE APPROVAL TO MORE MEDICINES FOR HIV AND AIDS, GOVERNMENT URGED

KUALA LUMPUR, May 18 (Bernama) -- The government should approve more medicines from overseas for HIV and AIDS, said Malaysian AIDS Council (MAM) President Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir today.

She said the medicines might be expensive but at least there would be a supply.

"...some good medicines have yet to get approval of the government. So, I hope that the government will give its approval as soon as possible," she told reporters after presenting a cheque for RM159,868 to the Federation of Family Planning Associations Malaysia (FFPAM) President Datuk Jaafar Indot to finance its activities for this year.

She said the medicines available were still expensive inspite of reduced prices with each patient still having to spend almost RM2,000 a month.

"The medicines will weaken the virus, allowing patients to lead a normal life again. The problem is it is a life-long treatment," said Marina who would be going to New York on May 21 to represent non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the pre-UN General Assembly on AIDS-Special Session (UNGASS) to be held in June.

--BERNAMA

SLR AHH ABG