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Marina-AIDS

NO NEED TO SEGREGATE AIDS PRISONERS- MARINA

KUALA LUMPUR, July 10 (Bernama) -- There is no reason to segregate or isolate HIV/Aids prisoners, President of the Malaysian Aids Foundation Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said today.

"Isolation only stigmatizes people and that does not help," she told reporters after presenting a cheque for RM102,000 from the foundation to Persatuan Pengasih Malaysia to help fund their projects for this year.

Marina was asked to comment on Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) commissioner Prof Hamdan Adnan's proposal for a special prison for convicts suffering from Aids or who are HIV carriers.

Hamdan had said the special prison should be managed by officers or wardens who had been given special training on the caring and handling of convicts suffering from Aids or who are HIV carriers.

Marina said the most important thing was to have the prison population educated on HIV/Aids.

"You have to educate the rest (of the prisoners) that can get infected. It is the very basic thing. So the issue is more of educating people rather than isolating them," she said.

Marina said, "I understand Hamdan's concern over the lack of the full range of medical treatment for them in prisons. They do not get the type of medical attention that they should get."

Marina also urged the government to immediately put the new price list of HIV/Aids medicine into the Health Ministry's blue book.

She said that during a dialogue with the Health Ministry in early June the minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng had agreed to review the matter and include it in the official blue book by the end of this month.

"This will enable many more HIV/Aids patients to have access to the lower priced drugs at the pharmacies and hospitals," she said.

-- BERNAMA

MUN ES AAM