

# Pengasih unveils biggest Red Ribbon in the country

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KUALA LUMPUR: It took Pengasih Malaysia project manager Jaafar Daud, his girlfriend and a housemate just one night and a sewing machine to stitch together several 10m pieces of red cloth to make it 83m long.

The result, which measures 34m in length and 15.2m wide when twirled into the AIDS awareness symbol, was endorsed yesterday as the country's biggest Red Ribbon by the Malaysia Book of Records.

"We (Pengasih) would bring several pieces of red cloth to our exhibitions and ask members of the public to sign on them. In total, we had 2,500

signatures," Jaafar said. "The idea for this campaign came from our president Mohd Yunus Pathi and a volunteer," he said.

The campaign to have the biggest red ribbon was organised by Pengasih with the support of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation. It was held in conjunction with International Memorial AIDS Day this year.

The last person to sign the Red Ribbon was foundation chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir at Rumah Pengasih yesterday.

Members of the public, including students, medical experts, recovering drug users, people living with HIV/AIDS

(PLWHAs) and Hospital Kuala Lumpur nurses took the opportunity to hold up the Red Ribbon at the function.

The journey began at a World AIDS Day function in Johor Baru two years ago and the campaign went around the country to Malacca, Seremban, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Kuching.

"This ribbon gives hope to PLWHAs and drug users as they can learn from the event that they can change and make a difference.

"If people at all levels of society can hold up the Red Ribbon, it shows that they can play a role to fight HIV/AIDS," Jaafar said.