

# UN to evaluate anti-AIDS fight

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (Unaid) will conduct an external evaluation on Malaysia's non-governmental organisations' direction in the fight on HIV/AIDS.

The evaluation will be carried out at the request of the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC), Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) and MAC's 38 affiliates.

MAC president Datuk Paduka Marina Mahathir said the coun-

cil was taking stock of its activities and effectiveness after 10 years.

"We want to re-look at ourselves first to see whether we have responded in the right way.

"We have grown so much and the epidemic has grown so much too.

"We are very good at criticising people but we should criticise ourselves, too," she told reporters after presenting the Red Ribbon Media Awards 2002 at the JW Marriott hotel.

Marina said Unaid would look at the HIV/AIDS situation in the country and the strategies of the various programmes.

Marina, who is also MAF chairman, said recommendations by Unaid would be taken into consideration and improvements such as reorganisation, restructuring and providing better services would be carried out.

Earlier, she called on the media to look beyond statistics and the usual "angles" when writing about AIDS.