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AIDS-drugs

AIDS WILL BE UNCONTROLLABLE UNLESS NUMBER OF DRUG USERS CURBED, SAYS
MARINA

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- The deadly AIDS disease will be uncontrollable if the number of drug users in the country continue to increase, said Malaysian AIDS Council Chairman Datuk Paduka Marina Mahathir.

"The number of drug users in Malaysia has increased over the past 20 years and it is time to assess what needs to be done to curb their growing number," she said when opening the Young Contemporary Awards 2002 exhibition at the National Art Gallery today.

She said female drug users should be treated differently than their male counterparts because of different biological and social issues.

While the men might be able to seek direct treatment for their drug problems, the women might not be able to do so as they would have other obligations such as taking care of the children, she said.

Marina also presented the awards to the several young artists.

The Major Award went to Noor Azizan Rahman Paiman and Suhaila Hashim for their works entitled `On Air' while the Juror's Award to Yap Sau Bin for his works `Who Gave Birth To The Great White One', Nurhanim Mohd Khairuddin (`Laga-Laga') and Multhalib Musa (`By Default').

A total of 120 entries were received from Malaysian artists, aged 35 and below, for the awards.

The panel of judges includes the Director of Gallery Petronas Zainal Abidin Ahmad Shariff and artist and lecturer of Universiti Sains Malaysia Hasnul Jamal Saidon.

Zainal said there seemed to be a trend among young artists to venture from the conventional way of expressing themselves into new ways such as three dimensional art.

-- BERNAMA

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