

31 MAY 2004

Aids-Award

AIDS FOUNDATION INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR DR SITI HASMAH AWARD

KUALA LUMPUR, May 31 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian AIDS Foundation today called for nominations for the Dr Siti Hasmah Award 2004 which recognises excellent work towards HIV/AIDS prevention.

Its Chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said the award, named after the former First Lady, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, also appreciates work that focused on protecting the dignity of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Established in 1996, the award is conferred biennially by the foundation to encourage more organisations and individuals to be pro-active, creative and committed in their HIV/AIDS responses in this country, she told a media conference today.

She said nomination is now open to the public to propose an organisation or an individual for outstanding contributions to HIV/AIDS prevention work in Malaysia for the period between May 1, 2002 and April 30.

All nominations must reach the foundation by June 30, she said.

She said nominees' scope of work should focus on one or more of the following areas -- prevention, education, support and human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and recognising and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups such as children, youths and women as well as marginalised communities.

Marina said there would be two Special Mention Awards -- Prevention Education and Care and Support.

"The winner of the Dr Siti Hasmah Award will receive a trophy worth RM5,000, a cash prize of RM10,000 for an organisation or RM5,000 for an individual and a certificate of excellence," she said.

She said winners of the two Special Mention Awards would receive a trophy, RM2,500 and a certificate of merit, respectively.

While the trophies are sponsored by the Carat Club, the foundation would provide the cash prizes and certificates, she said.

The Dr Siti Hasmah Award will be presented by Tun Dr Siti Hasmah at the foundation's premier charity event, "Red Ribbon Gala" here on Sept 18.

-- BERNAMA

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