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VIP turns up to boost charity futsal tournament

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THE Futsal Arena at the Sports Unlimited in Petaling Jaya turned raucous when a female VIP played the game for the first time.

It was none other than Malaysian AIDS Council president and the Malaysian AIDS Foundation chairman Datuk Paduka Marina Mahathir, who earlier launched the fourth fund-raising event themed "In The Name Of Love" at Sports Unlimited.

Marina played the indoor game with 3R programme host Kartini and a few other regular players.

Marina's participation in the 10-minute game was to encourage youths, families, organisations and corporate sectors to participate in the "Red Ribbon Futsal Challenge 2003" which will be held on Oct 4 and 5.

The event, sponsored by Sapura Holdings and co-organised by venue sponsor Sports Unlimited, is to raise RM200,000 for the HIV/ AIDS programme.

Futsal, one of the fastest growing sports in the world, is a five-a-side football game played indoors. It is one way for the AIDS agencies to encourage a healthy lifestyle through popular sports.

There will be three major categories for the competition: Premier (aged 25 years and above) with a participation fee of RM3,000; Star (aged 17 to 24) with participation fee of RM1,000; and Junior (aged 16 and below) with a fee of RM200.

The first prize for the Premier category will be a Challenge Trophy, medals and a cash prize of RM5,000 for both the Men's and Women's categories respectively, The Star and Junior category winners will get trophies, medals and RM3,000 and RM2,000 respectively.

Sapura Group of Companies is giving away contributions worth RM150,000 by sponsoring cash prizes, challenge trophies, medals and event organisation.

Webville Sdn Bhd (owner of Sports Unlimited) chief executive officer Kevin Robert Ramalingam said Sports Unlimited would pledge three per cent of the proceeds to the AIDS foundation.

"This is the first time Sports Unlimited will be contributing to charity."

For details, call the AIDS foundation at 03-40451033 or visit www.mac.org.my/LOVE/FUTSAL.