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# Celebrities to fight Aids

**NG SUZHEN**

WHAT better way to create awareness about Aids prevention than to use beautiful people to front a campaign.

With this in mind, Malaysia Aids Council (MAC) initiated the inaugural Red Ribbon Celebrity Support Programme 2009/2010.

Present to show their support at the launch of the programme yesterday were eight of the 10 participating celebrities: Shah Shamsari, Zainal Alam Kadir, Faizal Tahir, Dayang Nurfaizah, Fahrin Ahmad, Umie Aida, Uthaya and Owen Yap. Absent were Fish Leong and Anantha.

"Getting people to come and listen to such topics is never easy. We hope by roping in celebrities,

people would sit up and be attentive. There is a mass potential in what they can achieve. It could be visiting shelters or being a spokesman, which of course, will depend on their availability as well," said Dr Soraya Azmi, executive committee member of MAC.

She added that all the celebrities are from different backgrounds and have their strengths in their respective fields.

There are more than 85,000 people in Malaysia who are HIV positive. It is estimated 10 to 15 people a day contract it. The stigma and discrimination against people who are HIV positive is unhealthy. Through the talks, we hope that Malaysians realise it is the disease that we are fighting against and not the carriers."



STAR POWER: (From Left) Shah, Zainal, Faizal, Dayang Nurfaizah, Fahrin, Umie Aida, Uthaya and Owen Yap. Pic: Sharul hafiz Zam