

Headline	Marina Stop stigmatising children with HIV		
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Marina: Stop stigmatising children with HIV

FORMER Malaysian AIDS Foundation chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir has called on society to stop stigmatising and discriminating children with HIV and instead allow them to live in a more conducive environment.

"The public should take responsibility and keep up with the latest information. The government needs to increase awareness programmes, too,"

she said as a special guest on Bernama's *Today* programme on Astro 502 yesterday.

"The reality is that there are many children with HIV out there who need our attention."

According to Health Ministry statistics, there have been 94,841 HIV cases since 1986, with 2,324 involving those 19 and below.

In 2011 alone, there were 120

below the age of 19 among the 3,479 new HIV cases.

Marina encouraged the younger generation to adopt a healthier lifestyle, refrain from behaviour which could spread the disease, and also attend awareness campaigns.

As an HIV/AIDS activist, Marina is one of the 26 selected personalities in the "L'Oreal Professionnel: Colour For Life Campaign". — Bernama