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Public told not to discriminate

INNOCENT: Last year, 112 children below 2 and 797 between 2 and 12 were HIV-positive

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As of December last year, there were 77,064 Malaysians living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) patron Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor urged the public not to discriminate against those with HIV, especially children.

The prime minister's wife was visiting HIV-infected children at University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) yesterday.

Last year, it was reported that 112 children below 2 and 797 between 2 and 12 had HIV.

The visit was part of the Malaysian Assurance Alliance (MAA) Group Bhd's corporate social responsibility programme which saw MAA group executive chairman Tunku Ya'acob Tunku Abdullah presenting a RM25,000 cheque to UMMC Paediatric Department head Prof Dr Lee Way Seah.

Rosmah led a group of local celebrities and international footballers to bring cheer to the 22 HIV-infected children.

During a sing-along session with the children, MAF Red Ribbon Celebrity supporters and local celebrities such as Datin Paduka Umie Aida, Dayang Nurfaizah, Fahrin Ahmad, Bob Yusof and Syed Sobrie sang a few songs.

It was followed by an autograph session with international footballers and ex-Real Madrid players Fabio Canavarro, Michel Salgado and Fernando Morientes who are ambassadors of the Global Poverty Project (GPP). GPP is an international education and advocacy organisation working to end extreme poverty.

The visit was made in conjunction with Sapura and Kencana Petroleum Red Ribbon Formula 1 GP Ball 2012 at Mandarin Oriental.

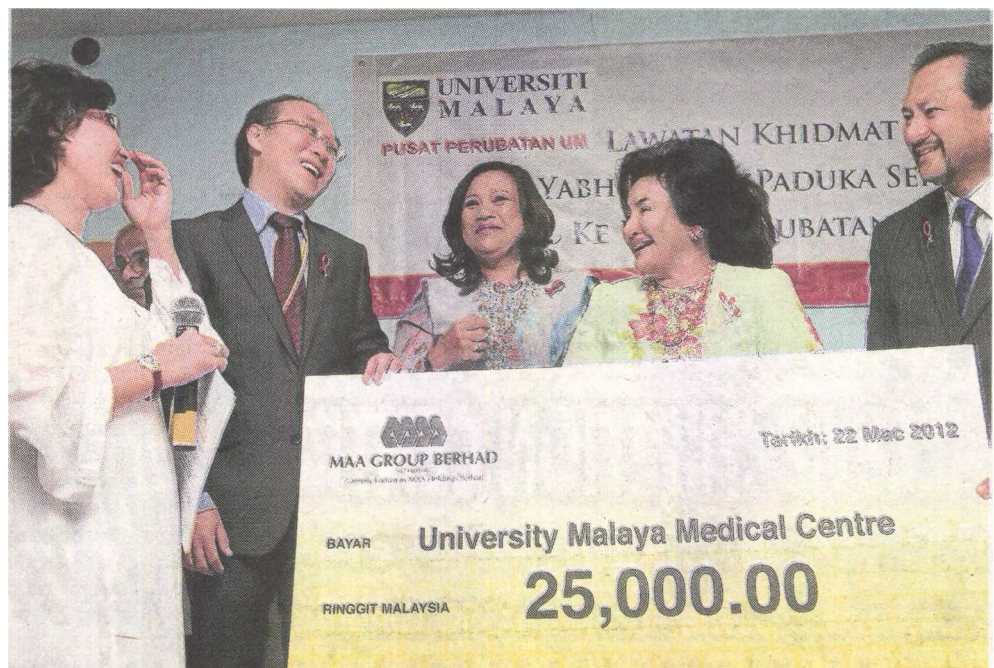
MAF and GPP are the beneficiaries of the ball. Paintings and other items were auctioned off to raise a targeted

RM1.5 million.

Local celebrities, international football stars, and international celebrities such as Owen Wilson, Camilla Belle and British singer Leona Lewis were at the ball.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Rosmah were also present.

The tickets for the tables were priced between RM35,000 and RM200,000.



Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and (from left) Prof Dr Lee Way Seah, Dr Rozaidah Talib and Tunku Ya'acob Tunku Abdullah at the cheque presentation.
Pic by Rosela Ismail