

Headline	Ministry No cut in funds to HIV/AIDS-related NGOs		
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Ministry: No cut in funds to HIV/AIDS-related NGOs

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry has never reduced or cut the allocation for HIV/AIDS-related non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as alleged by certain quarters.

Deputy director-general of Health Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman said what had happened was that the ministry had to block allocations for those NGOs which had failed to submit their annual reports to the Health Department.

“They have to understand that this is people’s money.

“We cannot give the money to them if they don’t submit to us their complete annual reports,” he said after opening the 11th annual general meeting of Malaysian Aids Council (MAC) here yesterday.

Dr Lokman Hakim was commenting on al-

legations made by certain HIV/AIDS-related NGOs that their allocations had declined over the years.

He said between 2003 and 2012, a total of RM64.9 billion had been allocated by the ministry to such HIV/AIDS-related NGOs in the country.

As such, Dr Lokman Hakim said he hoped that the NGO would work closely with the ministry, especially in preparing their annual reports, so that they would continue receiving aid and allocations from the government.

Meanwhile, MAC president Tan Sri Mohd Zaman Khan called for a regulation or law to be formulated to prevent employers from sacking workers infected with HIV/AIDS.

He said this was vital as the workers had every right to work and earn a living. **Bernama**