

Headline	The young most at risk of HIV		
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The young most at risk of HIV

ALARMING: In 2010, more than 76 per cent of Malaysians infected with HIV were aged 20 to 39

C. PREMANANTHINI

THE Red Ribbon Youth Club was set up recently for individuals aged 18 to 40.

This segment of the population makes up the majority of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

The club was launched by the Malaysian Aids Council (MAC) at Universiti Utara Malaysia recently.

At the event, KL Tower Management donated RM28,297 to the council.

MAC executive director Roswati Ghani said disseminating the right information and spreading awareness was the main purpose for start-

ing the club.

“After launching the club we asked some students how much they know about HIV,” added Roswati.

“Sadly, many are not well-informed about HIV.

“They think HIV is AIDS. But, HIV is not AIDS. It is a virus that attacks and disarms the immune system, at the beginning stage,” she said at MAC’s Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house here.

She said in 2010 more than 76 per cent, or 69,747, of people infected with HIV were aged between 20 and 39.

Last year, she added, one in every four new HIV cases reported involved youths aged 13 to 29.

Roswati said an unhealthy lifestyle was the main contributory factor for the statistic.

She said 14 celebrities had been chosen to serve as ambassadors for the cause.

She said the target was to have 100,000 members by the end of the year.

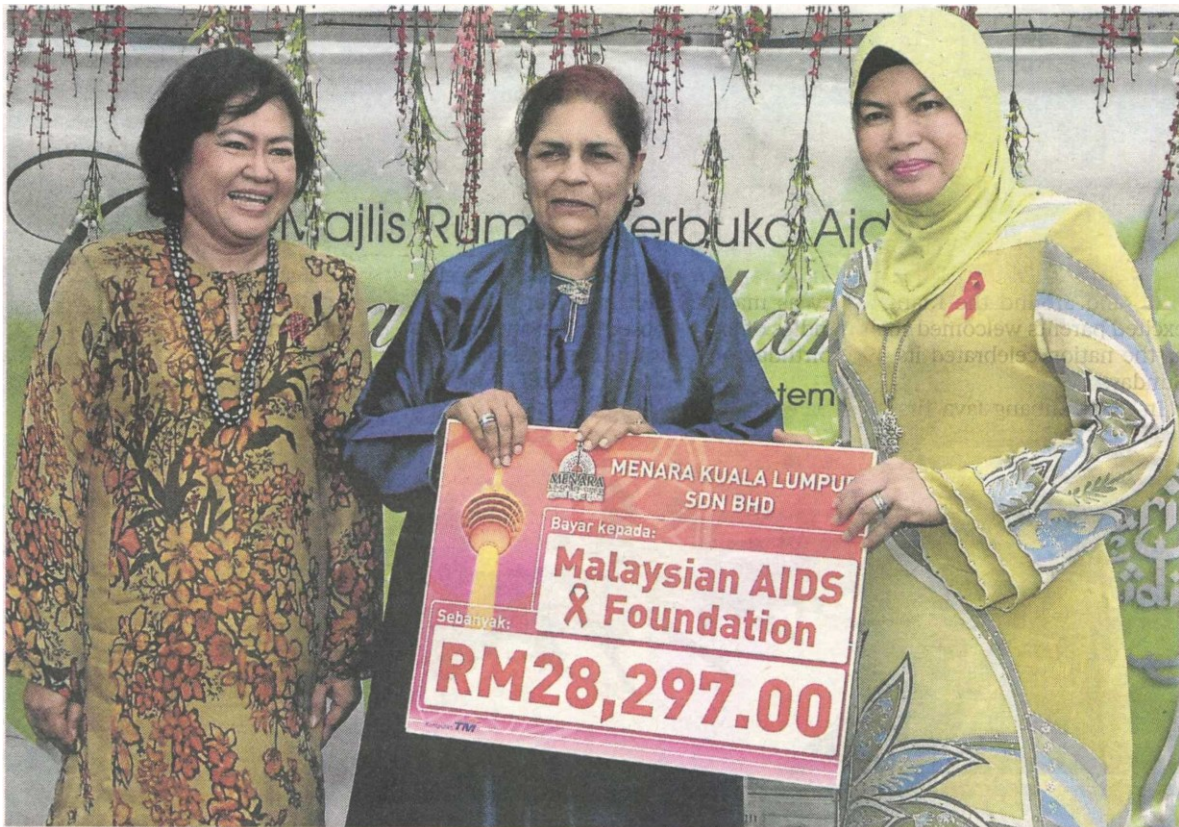
She said about 100 students had already joined the club.

Those who wish to be a member can go to www.facebook.com/RedRibbonYouthClub.



Roswati Ghani handing a contribution to PT Foundation acting executive director **Raymond Tai**.

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KL Tower Management chief executive officer **Datuk Zuraidah Mohd Said** (right) handing the donation to MAC president **Datuk Dr Raj Karim**, witnessed by **Roswati Ghani**. Pix by **Mior Azfar Mior Kamarulbaid**