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Guides can help stop spread of diseases: Morliah

KUCHING: Girl Guides can play a vital role in stopping the spread of diseases such as malaria and AIDS throughout the world.

Girl Guides Association Malaysia Sarawak branch president Datin Amar Dayang Morliah Datuk Awang Daud said the theme for this year's Girl Guides Thinking Day – 'Stop the spread of AIDS, malaria and other diseases' – was timely as health issues were a global concern.

"It is easier for us to be exposed to various diseases regardless of age, gender or environment. Health is an important asset in our lives.

We have to put this as our priority," she said.

Morliah said this during the state-level 'Girl Guides Thinking Day Celebration 2009' at the Islamic Information Centre (IIC), in Jalan Ong Tiang Swee here yesterday.

Earlier, association Malaysia chief commissioner Datin Zalillah Mohd Taib encouraged members to contribute to the World Thinking Day Fund.

She said the fund would not only be used to develop other Girl Guides associations in the world, but also to prevent the spread of disease.

"This year, your contribution is more meaningful because the fund would be used to help those members who are currently fighting with AIDS, malaria or other diseases," she said.

"There are over 60 million people in the world who have been affected by AIDS and 20 million of them have died because of it. So far, 12 million teenagers are living with HIV and 6,000 people are infected by HIV every day," she said.

Meanwhile, Morliah revealed that the Sarawak branch will have a new headquarters building at Jalan Batu Lintang here by

February or March next year.

However, she said, the association needed the support of the public to complete the project.

"Due to the increase in the cost of building materials, our funds for the project is not enough. We therefore would like the assistance from the public to help us to raise more funds so that we are able to provide more good and practical infrastructure to our members," she said.

Morliah said they would hold a jogathon to raise the funds and their target is RM150,000.



LET IT SHINE: State Girl Guides Association patron Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Norkiah (fourth left) lights a candle as (from second left) Zalillah, Morliah and chief commissioner Annie Sim look on. — Photo by Johnathan Bullet