

Headline	Society to host International AIDS Memorial Day	Language	ENGLISH
Date	12. Jun 2009	Page No	3
Media Title	Borneo Post	Article Size	158 cm2
Section	Home	Frequency	Daily (EM)
Circulation	57529	Color	Black/White
Readership	166173	AdValue	914.71



Society to host International AIDS Memorial Day

KUCHING: The 2009 International AIDS Memorial Day (IAMD) commemoration event will be held at the Islamic Information Centre tomorrow.

Minister of Environment and Public Health Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh will be launching the event.

The day's programme will include a Bacaan Doa to represent the hopes and perseverance of communities fighting HIV/AIDS in Malaysia, and Personal Testimonials by People Living with HIV (PLHIV).

This year's theme, 'Together, We are the Solution' (Bersama, Kita adalah Penyelesaiannya) is to promote both global solidarity and resolution to HIV/AIDS issues and to illustrate to all Malaysians that we will see change only when we work together in partnership.

This year will be the first time IAMD focuses on religion. It is doing this to garner support of religious leaders in reducing stigma and discrimination against Malaysians living with HIV. Thus, the role of religion in HIV prevention, treatment and care will be the main highlight in the IAMD commemoration in Malaysia.

About 400 people from various local non-government organisations (NGOs), local faith-based organisations, heads of state and federal government agencies and institutions of higher learning are expected to attend.

The IAMD is the world's oldest and largest grassroots mobilisation campaign addressing HIV/AIDS. It was commemorated in more than 100 countries last May 17. In Malaysia, the activities began on May 17 and will carry on right up to end of June.

The objective of the IAMD is to honour and support those who have been affected by the AIDS epidemic and to mobilise communities worldwide to engage in dialogues, education and partnerships to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Individuals or organisations interested in participating in the commemorations are encouraged to pre-register with SACS (Cik Puspa Suhaili) as attendance is on a first-come-first-serve basis.

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