

Headline

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MPs must play role in creating awareness among people on dangers of HIV/AIDS

KUALA LUMPUR: All Members of Parliament (MPs) must play a vital role in helping create awareness among the people with regard to the dangers involved in HIV/Aids.

Dewan Negara President Datuk Wong Foon Meng said MPs have a role to play in educating the people of the dangers and preventive measures to avoid or reduce the number of HIV/Aids cases.

"Their role is important and they must focus on the issues and dangers involved in immoral social activities, which endanger women especially," he told reporters after opening a HIV/Aids Awareness campaign at the Parliament building here yesterday.

He also urged corporate, private companies, government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to come forward and support such campaigns, so as to curb the spread of such diseases to the younger generation.

"The role of the younger generation is very important

because their efforts and energy is needed to contribute towards the economy and development of the country," he said.

Wong, 56, who replaced Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh as the president on July 7, last year, also announced that today would be his last day of office as the Dewan Negara President and that his successor would be announced on April 26.

The former Kuala Terengganu state assemblyman from 1995-1999 became the sixth non-Malay President of Dewan Negara after Tun Omar Yoke Lin Ong, Tan Sri Benedict Stephens, Tan Sri Chan Choong Tak, Tan Sri G. Vadiveloo and Tan Sri Michael Chen Wing Sum.

Meanwhile, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said the government had already identified Wong's successor.

"We have the candidate but the name will be announced later," he said. — Bernama