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Muslims make up 72 pct of AIDS/HIV patients in Malaysia

KUALA TERENGGANU: More than 70 percent of the 87,710 HIV/AIDS sufferers in the country are Muslims, Malaysian AIDS Council vice-president Datuk Zaman Khan said yesterday.

As a result, this year's World AIDS Day would emphasise efforts to enhance the participation of Muslims in AIDS awareness campaigns.

What was more worrying, he added, was a report by the United

Nations General Assembly Special Session (Ungass) on AIDS, which stated that nine Malaysians were infected with the disease every day.

Also of concern was the spread of the disease among women, from 9.5 percent in 2000 to 20 percent last year, he said when speaking at a function to commemorate World AIDS Day here on Tuesday night.

In 2000, the main cause of women being infected with HIV/AIDS was

drug addiction but, lately, 30 percent had been attributed to heterosexual sex.

This happened because of lack of concern and cooperation from society, he added.

A total of 315 new cases were reported in Terengganu last year, he said, while Kelantan recorded the highest number of HIV/AIDS cases at 596, followed by Pahang (431) and Selangor (378), he added.

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